WASHTENAW

JEWISH NEWS

December 2007/January 2008 Kislev/Tevet/Shevat 5768 Volume XXXII: Number 4 FREE

Chanukah, Israel, focus of Federation Main Event

Jeffrey Lazor, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County's 2007 Main Event will be as bright and festive as ever as the community comes together to celebrate Chanukah—the festival of lights—on Thursday, December 6, at the Ypsilanti Marriott Eagle Crest. The Main Event will feature many special Chanukah traditions, including a community-wide lighting of the menorah led by high school students, dreidals on every table, Chanukah songs and delicious Chanukah gelt and treats.

"This year's Main Event promises to be especially meaningful because it falls on the third night of Chanukah, says Laurie Barnett, Main Event co-chair. "The Main Event draws us together to shmooze, to enjoy great desserts, to learn and challenge our thinking, and this year, to embrace our rich tradition of Chanukah as we light candles together as one united community."

The Jewish Federation emphasizes its year-long commitment to the celebration of Jewish life by hosting this year's Main Event during a time when Jews reflect on the Maccabees' victory over the Syrians and the oil left in the Temple miraculously lasting eight days.

Michael Oren

"Chanukah is an undemanding holiday that allows us to reflect on our history and be proud of our Jewish heritage. Kindling the lights of Chanukah together, an act that binds us all, will be an incredible moment," says Kim Saxe, Main Event co-chair.

This year, the Federation welcomes critically acclaimed Michael Oren, Ph.D., a best-selling author and internationally recognized expert on Israel. Dr. Oren will explore the significance of Israel's 60th anniversary, America's involvement in the Middle East, dating back to the times of George Washington, and the current state of world Jewry.

Immediately following the event, Dr. Oren will speak with local high school and college students in a private session at the Marriott.

The Jewish Federation is very fortunate again to have the generous support of the Ford Motor Company, which continues to ensure that the Main Event remains one of the premier community events in Washtenaw County.

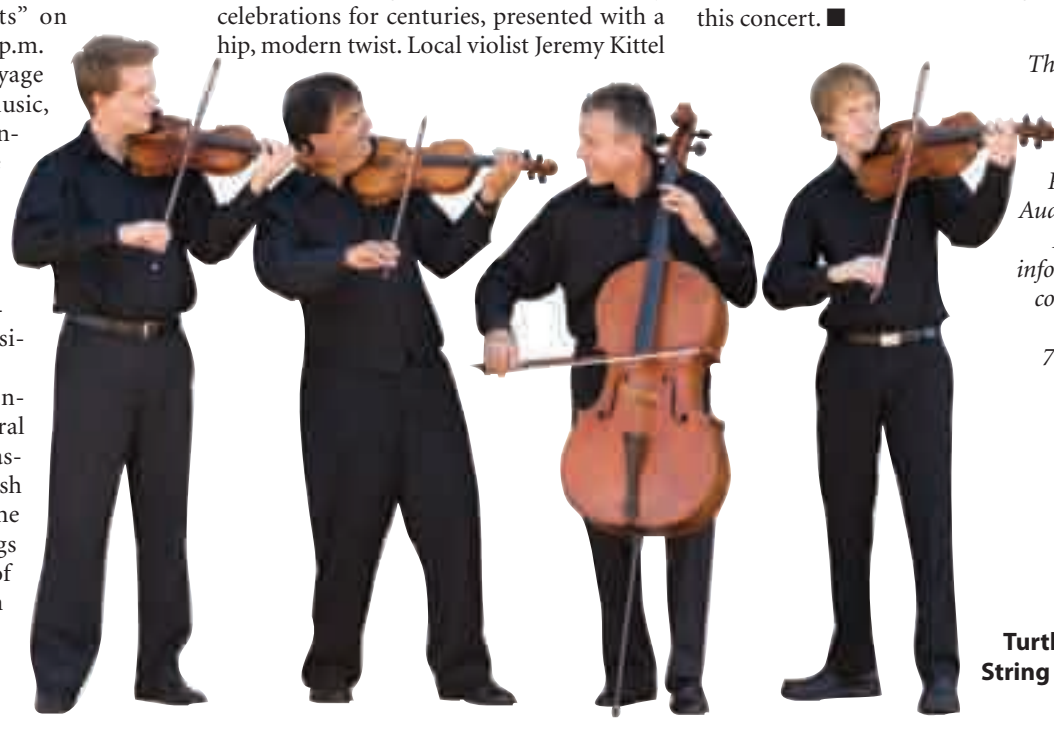
Tickets are $36 for adults and $18 for high school/college students. For more information, contact Jeff Lazor at jefflazor@jewishannarbor.org or call 677-0100. To RSVP for the Main Event, visit www.jewishannarbor.org/mainevent07. ■

UMS and Turtle Island String Quartet to present "Festival of Lights"

Sara Billmann, special to the WJN

The University Musical Society will present "A Solstice Celebration: The Festival of Lights" on Sunday, December 9, at 4 p.m. This concert offers a voyage through world holiday music, bringing together the iconic, acoustic finger-style guitarist Leo Kottke and the Turtle Island String Quartet, an ensemble that fuses the classical quartet aesthetic with contemporary American musical styles.

The collaboration honors the musicians' ancestral roots in a concert showcasing the music of the Jewish and Hindu traditions of the "Festival of Lights." Songs of Chanukah, the music of India's Diwali, old English carols, and Scottish reels all come together in this concert that explores the timeless music that has been an integral part of winter holiday celebrations for centuries, presented with a hip, modern twist. Local violist Jeremy Kittel has recently joined the Turtle Island String Quartet and will be performing as part of this concert. ■



Turtle Island String Quartet

The concert will be held at Rackham Auditorium. For more information, contact the UMS at 764-2538.

Chanukah Wonderland comes to Ann Arbor

Shternie Zwiebel, special to the WJN

Ann Arbor's Chanukah celebration will receive a significant boost this year with Chanukah Wonderland. This project of the Ann Arbor Chabad House will open its doors to the entire community for the Chanukah season December 4-12, at 500 Liberty Street (next to the Michigan Theatre), conveniently located in downtown Ann Arbor.

Children and adults will experience Chanukah through an intriguing hands-on olive press demonstration, creative crafts corner, high-tech computer center, latke and sufganiot (doughnuts) workshops, Chanukah cookie baking, Chanukah themed carnival games, and lego menorah contest.

Childrenwill have the chance to get dressed as a Maccabi and get their picture taken. Children will also have the opportunity to go inside a time machine to the days of the Chanukah story and relive it live in the Dreidel House. In addition, there will be a Chanukah gift shop with Chanukah supplies, from candles to gifts. The Chanukah gift shop will open on Sunday, December 2.

The entire community is invited to enjoy a celebration "Chanukah in the Chocolate Factory" on Sunday December 9, from 5–7 p.m. Attractions will include a chocolate menorah and chocolate fondue with fun things to dip, chocolate dreidels, and of course chocolate gelt. There will be dinner and entertainment and lighting of the Chanukah menorah.

Throughout the holiday, the Chanukah Wonderland menorah will be lit at 6 p.m., followed by latkes, dreidels, and celebration. "We look forward to greeting the entire Jewish community at the Chanukah Wonderland. We are very excited that Ann Arbor gets to have this boost for our Chanukah celebration," says Rabbi Alter Goldstein. ■

Visit www.jewmich.com for a complete calendar of the Chanukah Wonderland. For more information, call Shternie Zwiebel at 995-3276 or email chabad@jewmich.com.

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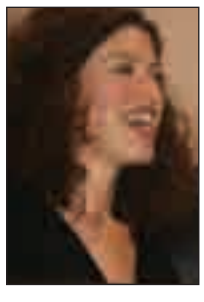

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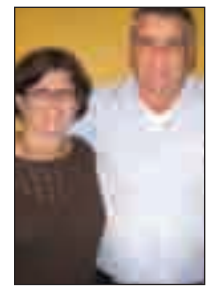

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Community

Chaverim B'Shirim concert at the JCC

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

Sol Saginaw

Chaverim B'Shirim will present a concert titled *Yiddish and Beyond* on Sunday, December 2, at 3 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. Songs will include pieces from HMS Pinafore in Yiddish, classic hits including "Bei Mir Bist Du Shein" and "Die Greene Koseene" and songs by well-known Jewish songwriters Paul Simon and Bob Dylan. There will also be musical surprises and opportunities for singing along. Members of the University of Michigan Yiddish Department will attend.

Marilyn Krimm is currently the music director and conductor of Chaverim B'Shirim, the JCC-based choral group which focuses on performing the music of Jewish composers. Krimm has had a long and distinguished musical career. From 1984 to 1992, she was the music director, choir conductor and cantorial soloist at Temple Beth Emeth in Ann Arbor. From 1960 to 1962, she conducted a high holiday choir at Beth Israel Congregation. She was director of vocal music at the Greenhills School from 1973 to 1975 and then entered the U-M to work on her doctoral studies.

Ensemble members of Chaverim B'Shirim include Ruth Bernard, Happy Feigelson, Deborah Greene, Lea Grossman, Mercy Kasle, Steve Kasle, Nancy Kerner, Lily Ladin, Harvey Michaels, Yetta Miller, Martha Oleinick, Jeff Pickell, Sue Rebner, Sol Saginaw, Marilyn Siegel, Arielle Sokol, Nell Stern, Ellie Feller Sussman and Sidney Warshausky. ■

A $5 donation is requested for the concert. Refreshments will be served. For more information or to register, contact the JCC at 971-0990 or visit jcc@jccfed.org.

Hadassah Bakes: challah, kugel and mandel bread

Florence Gerber, special to the WJN

Heather Dombey

Ann Arbor Hadassah will present a demonstration of Jewish cooking on Sunday, January 27, at 2 p.m. at the Malletts Creek Branch Library. Heather Dombey and Judy Cohen will demonstrate preparation techniques of traditional recipes for challah, kugel and mandel bread from two cookbooks: *Like Mama Used to Make* (1952) *and Like Mama Used to Make. …And More* (1986).

Ann Arbor Hadassah contributed these two beautifully illustrated and annotated cookbooks to the Ann Arbor District Library's digital cookbook collection, which can be viewed at http://www.aadl.org/cooks. Judy Cohen, 1986 cookbook chairman, said "I'm thrilled to have the cookbook online because the library is enabling Jewish traditions to be shared with future generations." Hadassah member Rae Juni thinks the online edition is "a fabulous new idea. It has always been a great gift."

Judy Cohen

While the recipes are now online, there are a few remaining real cookbooks, which can be purchased from Hadassah for $10 plus $2 for postage and handling. For information, contact Rae Juni at 761-2765.

The Malletts Creek Branch Library is located at 3090 East Eisenhower Parkway. The cooking demonstration is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Florence Gerber at 973-2593. ■

Game Night fun for all

Florence Gerber, special to the WJN

The community is invited to join the fun for Hadassah Game Night at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County on Tuesday, February 12, at 7:30 p.m. There will be bridge, mahjong, board games and card games such as hearts and euchre, and delicious desserts. Participants are encouraged to bring their favorite games. The cost for the evening is $18. For those who join Hadassah that night, the event is free. ■

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The deadline for the February *Washtenaw Jewish News* is Monday, January 7.
Publication date: January 29.

Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

Pinchas Zukerman to perform Beethoven at Wharton Center

WJN *staff writer*

Pinchas Zukerman will perform in an all-Beethoven program, along with London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO), at Michigan State University's Wharton Center for the Peforming Arts in East Lansing on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, at 7:30 p.m.

Zukerman has been recognized as a musical phenomenon for nearly four decades. Born in Tel Aviv in 1948, his musical genius and prodigious technique have long been a marvel to critics and audiences, and his exceptional artistic standards continue to earn him the highest acclaim. Equally respected as a violinist, violist, conductor, chamber musician and teacher, Zukerman is indeed a master of our time. The all-Beethoven program includes Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 61, Pinchas Zukerman violin soloist, and Symphony No. 5 in c minor, Op. 67.

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra was founded in 1946 by Sir Thomas Beecham, with his vision of bringing world-class performances of the greatest music written to all of England. The RPO has taken Beecham's vision and expanded upon it by offering audiences not only in the UK the highest possible standards of music-making, but creating it for the rest of the world as well.

Pinchas Zukerman

As an international orchestra, the RPO has toured more than 30 countries in the last five years, including performances for the late Pope John Paul II in the Vatican and the President of China in Tiananmen Square. Recent tours have included the RPO's first ever tour to Egypt, performing in the Cairo and Alexandria opera houses with Leonard Slatkin, and performances in Spain, Italy and Germany.

This concert is a unique opportunity to enjoy two of the world's greatest musical phenomenons, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the legendary Pinchas Zukerman, together on one stage.

There will be a PreView lecture in the Stoddard Grand Tier Lounge 45 minutes before the show begins. PreView lectures are free, half-hour discussions presented by industry experts that provide unique insight into the performance. ■

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Wharton Center at (517) 432-2000 or (800) WHARTON, or visit www.whartoncenter.com.

Mos Def Big Band to perform on MLK Day

Sara Billmann, special to the WJN

The socially conscious hip-hop artist Mos Def and the Mos Def Big Band will perform on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 21, 2008, at 7:30 pm in Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium. The concert will pay tribute to hip-hop producer J Dilla, who died in February, 2006 at age 32 from complications from lupus. The performance is co-presented by the University Musical Society and the U-M Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives.

Mos Def is a hip-hop, rap, and spoken-word artist and actor who represents the African American community through poetry and hip-hop. His infectious rhymes—infused with an acute social consciousness—reclaimed hip-hop's revolutionary soul, critiquing the violence and deceit found in "gangsta" rap and examining head-on the issues of the black experience in the U.S. He has been presented by both the Lincoln Center American Songbook Series and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. For more information, visit www.mosdefmusic.com. ■

Concert tickets will go on sale on Friday, November 16, at 9 a.m. To purchase tickets, call the UMS at 764-2538 or visit www.ums.org. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the Michigan League Ticket Office (911 North University Avenue). The UMS Ticket Office is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., closed Sunday.

Mos Def

Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band

Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band at Ark February 2

WJN *staff writer*

Mark your calendar for a sure bet for a fun-gefilte evening! Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band will perform Saturday, February 2, at 8 p.m., at their annual winter appearance at the Ark

Musically reviving the wacky Jewish humor of the '50s and '60s by parodying everything from cha-cha to doo-wop to rock, Northeast Ohio's Yiddishe Cup is also one of the tightest, most vigorous klezmer bands around. Year after year they wind up on Jewish music ten-best lists, and their live shows are legendary. Get ready for songs like "Meshugeneh Mambo," the title track of the band's latest CD, and get ready to be led in dances by the shtickmeister. ■

For more information and tickets, contact the Ark at 761-1800 or visit their website at www.theark.org. The Ark is located at 316 South Main Street.

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Emerson String Quartet

FRI, JAN 4 | 8 PM
Rackham Auditorium

Lauded globally as a string quartet that approaches both classical and contemporary repertoire with equal mastery and enthusiasm, the Emerson String Quartet returns for its annual Ann Arbor appearance.

PROGRAM

Janácek	String Quartet No. 2 ("Intimate Letters") (1928)
Saariaho	Terra Memoria (2007)
Sheng	String Quartet No. 5 ("The Miraculous") (UMS Co-Commission 2007)
Bartók	String Quartet No. 3 (1927)

Supported by **Gil Omenn and Martha Darling.**
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Ellington Love Songs
Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and Wynton Marsalis

WED, JAN 16 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra is comprised of the finest jazz players on the scene today. Led by the incomparable Wynton Marsalis, this 15-member ensemble performs a new program featuring love songs of Duke Ellington.

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Media Partners **WEMU 89.1 FM, WDET 101.9 FM, Ann Arbor's 107one, Michigan Chronicle/Front Page,** and **Metro Times.**

Yuja Wang piano

SUN, JAN 20 | 4 PM
Hill Auditorium

"At 20, [Yuja] Wang has both the energetic, fearless imagination of youth and the probing sensitivity that in most artists comes only with maturity..." (*San Francisco Chronicle*)

PROGRAM

Ligeti	Etudes Nos. 4 and 10 (1985-94)
Liszt	Sonata in b minor, S. 178 (1851-53)
Bartók	Sonata for Piano, Sz. 80-BB.88 (1926)
Scriabin	Sonata No. 2 in g-sharp minor, Op. 19 (1897)
Ravel	La Valse (1919-20)

Hosted by **Dennis and Ellie Serras.**
Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers,** and **WRCJ 90.9 FM.**

Moiseyev Dance Company

SUN, JAN 27 | 6 PM [NOTE TIME]
Hill Auditorium

Russia's Moiseyev Dance Company is widely considered the greatest of all folk dance groups, founded by a former principal dancer of the Bolshoi Ballet. This superb company showcases its peerless technical brilliance and exuberant evocations of traditional dance.

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Frankel Institute Fellow receives National Endowment for the Humanities grant to explore Venetian Jews

Matt Weingarten, special to the WJN

The Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies congratulates Murray Baumgarten as a recent recipient of the prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar award. Professor Baumgarten and Shaul Bassi, associate professor of literature at the University of Venice, have been awarded $200,000 in order to conduct a second Institute on "Venice, the Jews, & Italian Culture: Historical Eras & Cultural Representations" from June 16–July 18, 2008. Baumgarten is a professor of literature at University of California, Santa Cruz and is currently in Ann Arbor as a Frankel Institute Fellow.

The five-week interdisciplinary program in Venice offers college and university educators the opportunity to explore the cultural, intellectual, and historic experience of Venetian Jewry. Focused primarily on the Ghetto of Venice, participants study the history of the Ghetto as built environment, cultural text, and symbolic site. The program is designed to benefit scholars in various fields, including European culture, literature, art, and history, Holocaust studies, Italian studies, and Jewish studies. Professors Baumgarten and Bassi will select approximately two dozen participants and serve as primary guides throughout the program.

"Professor Baumgarten's scholarship is a model for the kinds of work the Institute is hoping to foster," said Anita Norich, executive director of the Frankel Institute. "We seek interdisciplinary, trans-national, cooperative ventures in Judaic Studies that merit national and, indeed, international recognition."

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. For more information on the Institute on "Venice, the Jews, & Italian Culture: Historical Eras & Cultural Representations," visit http://jewishstudies.ucsc.edu/NEH. The deadline for application is March 1, 2008.

The Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan provides annual fellowships for scholars from around the world to conduct research concerning an annual theme. Established through a generous financial contribution from the Jean & Samuel Frankel Jewish Heritage Foundation, the Frankel Institute is the only one of its kind at a public university in the United States. The Institute is committed to interdisciplinary work spanning ancient through contemporary times. By combining intellectual autonomy and depth with the ideal of a scholarly community, it aims to offer global leadership in Jewish Studies. ■

Jonathan Sarna is Beth Israel Congregation's Scholar-in-Residence

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

This year's scholar-in-residence weekend at Beth Israel Congregation, features Jonathan Sarna, professor of American Jewish history at Brandeis University. Sarna has been dubbed by the *Forward* newspaper as one of America's 50 most influential American Jews. On January 11 and 12, he will inaugurate the newly established Alfred and Alice Rosenberg Lecture Fund, contributed by Vic and Val Rosenberg in memory of Vic's parents.

On January 11, the weekend will be kicked off with a *Kabbalat* Shabbat service at 6 p.m., followed by a congregation Friday night dinner at 7 p.m. Sarna's presentation, "An Old Faith in the New World: The Story of American Judaism," will start at 8:15 p.m. This lecture is intended to be a broad overview of American Judaism. Babysitting will be provided during the lecture for children aged 5 and up. There is a charge for the dinner, which must be prepaid, but all of Sarna's lectures are free and open to the general community.

On Saturday, January 12, at 1:30 p.m., Sarna will conduct a text study of "Jewish Prayers for the United States Government," which will feature a presentation of different forms of prayers for the country and a discussion of their implications. That evening, at 7 p.m., he will speak about "Future Trends in American Jewish Life," with an opportunity for questions and response by the audience.

Sarna is currently the Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University and director of its Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program. Sarna was chief historian for the 350th commemoration of the American Jewish community, and he is recognized as a leading commentator on American Jewish history, religion and life.

Born in Philadelphia, and raised in New York and Boston, Sarna attended Brandeis University, the Boston Hebrew College, Merkaz HaRav Kook in Jerusalem, and Yale University, where he obtained his doctorate in 1979. From 1979–1990, Sarna taught at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, where he rose to become professor of American Jewish history and director of the Center for the Study of the American Jewish Experience.

Jonathan Sarna

He has also taught at Yale University, the University of Cincinnati, and at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Sarna came back to Brandeis in 1990 to teach American Jewish history in its Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies. He served two terms as chair of that department, and now chairs the Academic Advisory and Editorial Board of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives. In addition, he serves as chief historian of the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

Sarna has written, edited, or co-edited more than 20 books, including the acclaimed *American Judaism: A History*. Winner of the Jewish Book Council's "Jewish Book of the Year Award" in 2004, it has been praised as being "the single best description of American Judaism during its 350 years on American soil."

The Rosenbergs have established the Alfred and Alice Rosenberg Lecture Endowment Fund through the Washtenaw Community foundation to support this biennial lecture series at Beth Israel Congregation. Vic and Val Rosenberg are pleased for the opportunity to continue the tradition of this lecture series that was founded originally in memory of Osias and Hannah Zwerdling by their children. ■

Photography exhibit features work of Norma Penchansky-Glasser

The Bobbie and Myron Levine Jewish Community Center Cultural Arts Fund proudly presents the art exhibit "Freezing a Moment in Action," original drawings by Norma Penchansky-Glasser. The exhibit will be on display at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's Amster Gallery through December 28 during regular business hours. Call the JCC at 971-0990 with any questions. ■

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Beth Israel Congregation

Alfred and Alice Rosenberg Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

January 11–12, 2008

with Jonathan Sarna, Ph.D
Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University

"One of American's fifty most influential American Jews"
The Forward

Friday, January 11, at 8:15 p.m.
"An Old Faith in the New World: The Story of American Judaism"

Saturday, January 12 at 1:30 p.m. "Jewish Prayers for the United States Government" Text Study and Discussion

Saturday, January 12 at 7 p.m.
"Future Trends in American Jewish Life" Presentation and an Opportunity for Conversation

These lectures are free of charge.
A Friday night dinner precedes the lecture on January 11.
There is a charge for dinner, which must be pre-paid.
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Ready to navigate the medical maze?

Abigail Lawrence-Jacobson and Carol Lessure, special to the WJN

Advocacy, particularly medical advocacy, is a role every family member should prepare for—especially as an increasing number of families face chronic disease, aging family members and the bureaucracy of health and other benefit programs. Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County supports families in planning for the later years and in navigating the medical maze during hospitalizations and illness.

Families need to have a number of documents in place and basic information available in the case of emergencies. For older adults, this information becomes increasingly complicated as their medical conditions multiply, necessitating multiple medications.

Jane Brody of the *New York Times* recently wrote about a "poisonous cocktail" of many drugs that can interact in dangerous ways and cause side effects that can be far worse than the diseases they are treating. Elderly people are especially vulnerable because they often have several medical problems for which they see different doctors who each prescribe drugs, often without knowing what else the patient is taking.

Laurie Wechter with JFS client

JFS recently worked to secure an appointment for a JFS client with a local gerontologist to review potential drug interactions. "It took months," said Laurie Wechter, JFS direct services coordinator for older adults, "but the doctor was able to make some simple changes that alleviated some challenging side effects missed by his team of 'experts.'"

Potential caregivers of all ages can attend the upcoming JFS Advocacy Connection Workshops on Thursday, December 13 (6–7:30 p.m.) and Sunday, January 27 (2–4 p.m.) at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. The workshop is entitled "When a Loved One is Hospitalized: Essential Information for Caregivers of Older Adults," and the goal is to teach participants that they do not have to be passive bystanders when a loved one is hospitalized, but rather they have choices and options to create positive outcomes.

At the workshop, Susan Weisberg, LMSW, advocate, and corporate trainer will discuss patient advocacy within a hospital setting, including the resources available when treatment or discharge plans are not in accordance with the patient's wishes. Michelle Klein, physician service coordinator for DRS, a Housecall Physician Service, will talk about the options available following hospital discharge, such as certified home care, private duty care, and outpatient rehabilitation, as well as what is covered under Medicare part A.

Last year, an Advocacy Connection workshop participant noted that although thinking ahead to medical crises and illnesses can be difficult, it is enormously important to be prepared. This participant said, "I thought that the workshop was very useful. The presenters and materials that were distributed were very well organized. It had so much information to offer."

The Benard L. Maas Foundation and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation support these free workshops. ■

For more information or to register, contact Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson at JFS, 769-0209.

YAD Power Hour

Alex Milshteyn, special to the WJN

The Young Adult Division of the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County hosts a Jewish Business and Professional Networking "Power Hour" every quarter. The Power Hour is a vehicle for a wide variety of current and future young Jewish professionals to meet and mingle across disciplinary lines and learn from the experience of a successful member of the business community.

Power Hour speakers are members of the business and professional community who have not only managed to reach the highest levels of professional success but have made it a personal priority to give back to the greater community as well. Past speakers have included Jim Hiller, Ari Weinzweig, Joan Lowenstein, Chuck Newman, and Jim Adox.

The latest Power Hour speaker, on October 1, 2007 at Bar Louie, was Gerry Miller, Chief Operating Officer of ePrize, LLC. Miller spoke about the importance of having a positive culture in modern-day companies, and the benefits of choosing an employer that provides a positive culture that fits you as an individual.

Future Power Hour speakers include Randy Friedman, chairman and chief executive officer of The Harvard Drug Group LLC. Friedman is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and a current member of the State Bar Association of Michigan. The group welcomes suggestions for other speakers. For more information, contact Laura Berger at 677-0100. ■

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Community

Older Adults: 2008 SPICE* of Life

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Mondays

11 a.m. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar. $4 or 3 for $10.
Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3.
12:30 p.m. New American Club. ESL Class for Russian Seniors.
December 3: Clay Studio
1–4 p.m. Professional sculptor Barbara Carson will run a beginner's workshop on how to work with clay. She will teach how to construct a face using simple tools. Clay will be provided. Bring work clothing. No charge.
December 6: Yiddish Open House
1–2 pm. Aliza Shevrin will give a brief summary, comparison, and contrast of three soon-to-be published translations of Sholom Aleichem novels. JCC Newman Room.
December 10: Musical Monday with Laurie White
1–2 p.m. Singer, songwriter and movie director Laurie White will sing and play folk music on her guitar.
December 17 and 24
1–2 p.m. JCC Writing Group
December 31
JCC Closed

Tuesdays

10:30 a.m. Bible Class
Noon. Mah Jongg
1–2:30 p.m. Drop-In Hobby Time

Wednesdays

December 5: Matinee Musicale
1:30 p.m. Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's Arie Lipsky and Friends. $7.

Thursdays

10–11 a.m. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar. $4 or 3 for $10.
11 a.m.–Noon. Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news.
Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3.
12:30 p.m. New American Club. ESL Class for Russian Seniors
1–2 p.m. Thursday Special Events and Presentations (for details see next column)
2:15–3:15 p.m. Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky.

Thursday special events and presentations

December 6: Yiddish Open House
1 p.m. Yiddish open house. Yiddish translator Aliza Shevrin will speak on three soon-to-be published translations of Shalom Aleichem. Lily Ladin 662-6613
December 13: Jewish History
1 p.m. Kelsey Museum and Local Jewish History Archivist, Carol Finerman, will share historical information and interview records of the local Jewish community and bring a "finding aid."
December 20: Rabbi Goldstein
1 p.m. Rabbi Aharon Goldstein presents "The Destruction and Rebuilding of Jewish Temples in Jerusalem."
December 27: Neighborhood Senior Services and You
1 p.m. Presentation TBA.
January 3: Birthday Celebration
1 p.m. Musician Sam Barnett serenades us with golden oldies. Special congratulations will go out to those who are 80 years old or more. Family members are invited. Cake and ice cream.
January 10:
1 p.m. Speaker TBA
January 17: Rabbi Levy
1 p.m. Rabbi Robert Levy presents "Ecology and Israel."
January 24: Yiddish Open House
1 p.m. Yiddish Film "Ushpizin." Contact Lily Ladin at 662-6613.
January 31: Reiki and Relaxation
1 p.m. Kathy of IMPEL will be back to show how she helps people relax.

Fridays

1:30 p.m. Yiddish Speaking and Reading Group, at the home of Ray Juni, will be held December 14, 21, 28, and January 4, 11,18, 25. Call 761-2765 for more information.

Visiting rabbi to teach on mysticism and Tu B'shvat

Rabbi Nathan Martin, special to the WJN

Dr. Nehemia Polen, professor of Jewish Thought at Hebrew College in Boston, will visit Ann Arbor on Wednesday, January 23, the day after Tu B'shvat. He will lecture at 4 p.m. at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies (Thayer Building, room 2022), on his research on Jewish mysticism. That evening at 7:30 p.m., Dr. Polen will speak on "The Mystical Meanings of Tu B'shvat," at a community meeting—followed with Tu B'shvat desserts—at the University of Michigan Hillel.

Dr. Polen is the author of *The Holy Fire: The Teachings of Rabbi Kalonymus Shapira, the Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto*, and is a contributing commentator to *My People's Prayer Book*. His most recent work is *Filling Words with Light: Hasidic and Mystical Reflections on Jewish Prayer* (with Lawrence Kushner). Dr. Polen is an ordained orthodox rabbi and has served a congregation for 23 years. Dr. Polen's visit is made possible by the generous support of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County, the University of Michigan Hillel, Temple Beth Emeth, The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, and Pardes Hannah. ■

Book Fair

JCC Book Festival

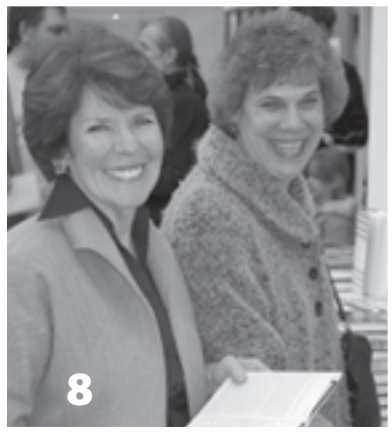
Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County 20th Annual Jewish Book Festival, held November 11–18, was a huge success. Thanks to the individual sponsors, organizational sponsors, and corporate sponsors, the week-long festival was able to offer something for everyone. Highlights of the week included a reception and dinner in honor of Book Festival sponsors with author Naftali Bendavid; a local authors' brunch; "Lunch & Learns," featuring a wide-variety of authors; a JFS-sponsored luncheon and program on Jewish mothers with author Joyce Antler; children's events; and more. Book Fair events were catered by Amanda Fisher of Amanda's Kitchen. Many books and Chanukah gift items are still available for purchase at the JCC.

Images from the Book Festival

(Facing page)

1. Author Ruth Behar shared stories of Jewish Cuba
2. West Lounge performed at the "Jewish Mothers" program
3. Author Charlotte Mendelson shmoozing with Sue Sefansky, Nancy Silver and Martha Young
4. Author Naftali Bendavid
5. Chef Amanda Fisher
6. Steven Lee Beeber, author of *Heebie Jeebies at CBGB's* speaks at Borders
7. San and Laz Slomovits shared stories of their mother
8. Susan Orrenger and Wendy Goldberg peruse the books for sale
9. A group from ORT at Book Club Night, which was sponsored by ORT and Hadassah
10. Book Fair co-chairs Esther Uhlman and Lisa Molnar
11. Author Joyce Antler
12. Heather Dombey, Sue Rebner and Judi Laxe attended Book Club Night
13. Heidi Smith Hyde, author of *Mendel's Accordion,* leads everyone in a circle dance
14. Book Fair co-chairs Fran Martin and Alice Fishman
15. Lunch and Learn authors Gina Nahai and Ruth Behar (left) talked with book fair attendees
16. Author Dennis Ross signed books books after his presentation
17. Book fair attendees enjoyed delicious luncheons
18. Local Authors, Ilana Blumberg and Amy Colton, with Shira and Steve Klein



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUSAN AYER

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

Mark your calender for upcoming events

Thursday, December 13, 2007 & January 21, 2008

JFS Advocacy Connection 6:00pm - 7:30pm *
Supported by the Benard L. Maas Foundation and the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.

Before you're in a crisis situation, attend this workshop to gain necessary skills in caring for an elderly relative.

Sunday, January 17, 2008 & February 21, 2008

JFS Caregiver Conversations 6:30pm - 8:30pm *
Supported by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County.

A monthly drop-in educational and support group for adult children in a variety of caregiving roles for their aging parents.

Sunday, March 2, 2008

Depression Awareness : A Community Conversation
in memory of Dr. Toby Jacobowitz
2:00pm - 4:45pm *

All the above events are held at the Jewish Community Center.

Dinner with the Family

Sunday, March 30, 2008
Please join JFS and its hosts from around the Ann Arbor area for this special evening.

For more information or to register for these events call (734) 769-0209 or visit www.jfsannarbor.org

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Frankel Fellows Colloquia—a great community resource

Emily Eisbruch, staff writer

Two years ago, I was reading the *Ann Arbor News* and learned something remarkable. The University of Michigan Frankel Center for Judaic Studies had received a $20 million grant from Jean and Samuel Frankel to bring in groups of scholars for year-long study here in Ann Arbor. Pretty exciting, I thought. According to the article, the plans were to host not just a handful of scholars per year, but rather the impressive number of 14 Jewish studies scholars annually. I remarked about it to a few friends, wondered what it would mean for U-M, for the local Jewish community, and for the Jewish studies field as a whole. Then—to be honest—after a few months passed, I forgot about it.

Until this fall that is, when I started reading and hearing about the Frankel Fellows coming to town. Fourteen scholars from all over the U.S., Israel, and Europe coming here to our Midwestern town to focus on a variety of topics related to this year's theme of "Jews and the City."

It was a nice surprise when it turned out I had a personal connection with one of the incoming scholars: Frankel Fellow Alona Nitzan-Shiftan, a senior lecturer in architecture from the Technion in Haifa, is married to the brother of a friend. During August, I had a few phone conversations with Alona, mostly about the curriculum at Huron High School, which her older son Yuval was to attend. Then, in September my family shared a pleasant dinner with the Nitzan-Shiftan family. In a "small world" twist, it turns out that Alona's husband Yoram, a professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Technion and expert in travel behavior, is spending his year here as a visiting scholar at the U-M Urban and Regional Planning Program, working with our friend and neighbor Jonathan Levine.

During our evening of eating and chatting, I observed first-hand Alona Nitzan-Shiftan's excitement about the Frankel Fellowship program and about her topic, which relates to architecture of post-1967 Jerusalem. Inspired by her enthusiasm, I decided to attend a few of the noontime Thursday public lectures offered via the Frankel Institute Colloquia series. The schedule for the Colloquia can be found on the Frankel Center website http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic.

I was glad to discover that the Frankel Institute website also provides a helpful introduction to this year's big theme of "Jews and the City." The website explains, "The theme of Jews and the city invites scholars from many disciplines to collaborate. It raises questions about the relation of text to space, of representation to practice, of prayer to built environment, of difference to holiness. It invites examination of fruitful intersections of gender and sexuality, commerce and entertainment, politics and public culture, labor and domesticity, class and religion, as mediated through urban spaces, and well as inter-ethnic relations, cultural brokering, identity formation and ethnicity."

Murray Baumgarten presents on the Jews of Venice

The first of the three colloquia I attended was delivered by my new acquaintance Alona Nitzan-Shiftan. It was titled "Jews and the State: Debating the Architecture of Jerusalem's Western Wall Precinct." The talk focused on architecture of the Western Wall area of the Old City of Jerusalem after the reunification of the city under Israeli rule in 1967. Nitzan-Shiftan presented connections between architecture and ideology, and she contrasted the attempts of various architects to synthesize and embody history and hopes within their plans. She also discussed some of the complex issues surrounding digging to reveal ancient structures. I found the talk and accompanying slide presentation fascinating, even while a few of the references were beyond my grasp.

A few weeks later, I attended a Frankel Institute colloquium by Murray Baumgarten, professor of English and comparative literature at University of California at Santa Cruz. His talk was on "Venice, the Jews & Italian Culture." Baumgarten's presentation covered the uniqueness of Venice, and the history of the Jews there, including the Ghetto experience starting in the 1500s. He also took a close look at two prominent Venetian Jews, Sara Copio Sullam and Rabbi Leono Modena.

Barbara Mann discusses the poem – *The Spirit of Tel Aviv*

Finally, in early November, I sat in on a talk by Frankel Fellow Barbara Mann, associate professor of Jewish literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. Mann's talk focused on themes in Hebrew and Yiddish poetry in the Yishuv, Palestine prior to the establishment of the state of Israel. While she focused on a relatively obscure Yiddish Poema called "The Spirit of Tel Aviv," published in Buenos Aires in 1937, she managed to bring in compelling issues of exile, immigration, taming of nature, urban memory, and modernism.

Overall, I felt stimulated and enlightened by my foray into the world of academic Jewish studies. The exchange of scholarly opinions that took place in the discussion sessions following the lectures was particularly intriguing. Afterwards, I found myself wanting to learn more about each topic. Frankel Institute Executive Director Anita Norich hopes more community members choose to take advantage of the colloquia, commenting "The Frankel Institute is delighted to host members of the community at its colloquium series. These Thursday gatherings offer an exciting opportunity for new work, exchanging ideas and learning about this year's theme: Jews and the City. Our fellows are inspiring educators who welcome the opportunity to share their expertise."

What are the upcoming colloquia? See the box below for more details. Meanwhile, to find out more about what it's like to be a Frankel Fellow, I had a short question and answer session with the scholar who will deliver the noontime lecture titled "Jews & Blacks in New York City" on Thursday, January 17. Frankel Fellow Catherine Rottenberg—here in Ann Arbor for the year—is a lecturer in gender studies at Ben-Gurion University in Beer-Sheva, Israel.

WJN: What has the Frankel Fellowship experience been like for you?

Rottenberg: The Frankel Fellowship experience has been incredible so far—and I say this in all honesty. We have wonderful working conditions, the best I have ever experienced, and the group dynamic has proven to be intensely positive. My colleagues have pushed me to go in totally unexpected intellectual directions, which is just what I needed.

WJN: What is the typical weekly routine for a Frankel Fellow?

Rottenberg: We have one or two organized meetings a week (a seminar for fellows only and/or a more public lecture—part of the Frankel Colloquia). Most of the week, however, we are left to do our own research, which is great. And during any given week, there are always related lectures as well as informal meetings among the fellows.

WJN: What is the most important part of the Frankel Fellowship program for you?

Rottenberg: The luxury of setting my own schedule and being able to have formal as well as less formal discussions and conversations with amazing scholars from across the disciplines.

WJN: What topic(s) are you looking into during this year?

Rottenberg: The representation of urban space—and particularly Harlem and the Lower East Side— in modern African- and Jewish-American literature.

Catherine Rottenberg

WJN: How has your own and your family's adjustment to Ann Arbor been going?

Rottenberg: The adjustment to Ann Arbor has been very smooth. The Frankel and the other fellows have made the transition very easy.

WJN: What are some of your favorite spots in Ann Arbor?

Rottenberg: My two-year-old son loves the Y and the downtown library, so I spend a lot of time in those two places. ■

Anita Norich, executive director of the Frankel Institute, Alona Nitzan-Shiftan, Matt Weingarten (background), and Dan Miron, during the discussion following a lecture

Upcoming in the Frankel Fellow Colloquia Series

note: all lectures are at noon and are held at 202 S. Thayer Street

- December 6, 2007: Shachar Pinsker, *From the Beit Midrash to the Kaffeehaus: Hebrew Modernist Fiction and the Urban Experience*
- January 17, 2008: Catherine Rottenberg, *Jews & Blacks in New York City*
- January 31, 2008: Veerle Vanden Daelen, *A Shtetl of Displacement: Orthodox Jewish Life in Antwerp during the 20th Century*
- February 7, 2008: Lila Corwin Berman, *Sprawling Judaism: Authenticity in the American Suburb*
- February 21, 2008: Gil Klein, *A Holy Man's Space*
- March 13, 2008: Sara Blair, *The View from Below: The Lower East Side and the Vision of Modernity*
- March 20, 2008: L. Scott Lerner, *The Narrating Architecture of Emancipation: Turin*
- April 3, 2008: Deborah Yalen, *Ethnographies of Economic Transformation: The Shtetl Between City and Countryside in Late Imperial Russia and the Interwar Soviet State*
- April 10, 2008: Deborah Dash Moore, *Visualizing Street Culture in America*

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Partnership 2000 Israeli Mission visits Ann Arbor

Mae E. Sander and Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor/Nahalal Community-to-Community Mission to Ann Arbor took place October 26–31, 2007. Six visitors from Nahalal, Israel, made up the Israeli delegation, led by Yair Hammer and Partnership 2000 (P2K) region director, Ziva Ohayon-Recht. A host committee chaired by Cheryl Sugerman and Eva Solomon worked with Eileen Freed, acting director, Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County, to organize the visit. This new initiative is funded by Federation as a part of the community's Israel & Overseas elective funding (see sidebar).

A long-term relationship between Ann Arbor and Moshav Nahalal has been fostered under the Federation-sponsored activity Partnership 2000. The Partnership links the Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Grand Rapids Federations with the Central Galilee region comprised of the municipalities of Migdal Ha'Emek, Nazereth Illit, and the Jezreel Valley. Ann Arbor has funded a program for Jewish Family Education at the Nahalal elementary school, and a relationship was developed between Ann Arbor's Hebrew Day School and the Nahalal school.

The new community-to-community initiative is intended to broaden and deepen the relationship between the communities and to increase overall awareness of Israel in Ann Arbor. The Israeli delegates and Ann Arbor committee are charged with developing creative programming to foster relationships between students, families, schools, and Jewish institutions in Ann Arbor and Nahalal. The Ann Arbor committee was formed with the assistance of the Jewish Educators Council, which is partnering with Federation to ensure involvement from the full spectrum of the Ann Arbor Jewish community.

Hedva Strauss answers students' questions at Jewish Cultural School

Busy itinerary

The itinerary combined visits to Jewish community schools, agencies and congregations with working meetings to develop goals and brainstorm potential projects. In order to truly understand the community, arrangements were made for the Israelis to attend the U-M versus Minnesota football game and attendant tailgating. One participant was so moved by the experience, he spent the rest of his visit calling "Go Blue" to all who would listen.

In addition to Jewish organizations, the group visited Burns Park Elementary School and the Neutral Zone. They joined Ilan Rosenberg's Hebrew class at U-M and discussed life on Moshav Nahalal, and visited the Huron High School Jewish Student Union. There, Yair Hammer, a former Israeli Air Force pilot, shared his experiences making top-secret flights to the Sudanese desert to rescue Ethiopian Jews in the 1980s. A highlight of the Ann Arbor experience was the opportunity to meet with Mayor John Heftje.

At each visit, the delegation spoke about the uniqueness of Nahalal, the first moshav in Israel. Former kibbutz members who, while still connected to their socialist ideals, wanted more autonomy and independence, founded the community 86 years ago. Each farmer owns and operates his own farm, but communal institutions are shared, as are some cooperative ventures and major equipment. A German-Jewish architect developed the unique design in which the communal structures are at the center of a circle with each farm equi-distant from the center, spreading out as a sunburst. Moshav Nahalal was home to Moshe Dayan and many other government leaders and is the burial place of Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut. More information about Moshav Nahalal, including photos of the unique design, may be found at www.nahalal.org.il.

Impressions from the guests

The best reporting of the visit comes from the impressions of the guests. Osnat Tamir, a member of the moshav governing board and avowed secular Israeli said she was "amazed to see all the alternatives for how to be Jewish." She was particularly moved by the Beth Israel Congregation Women's League Shabbat service where women led services and read Torah. She was excited about the possibility of the children in Nahalal being exposed to new, different Jewish expressions.

Ilan Shmueli, a dairy farmer whose mother made aliyah from the US in 1966, saw his participation as an extension of his mother's Zionist decision—a way to connect more deeply with the Jewish people. He was moved by the decision of university students to take Hebrew and was impressed by the way Temple Beth Emeth shares its space with a church. Abir Glantz, a teacher at an agricultural boarding school located at Nahalal, works with children from difficult homes. He voiced what many in this community know, that "Jewish Family Services teaches a lesson in how to give."

Hedva Strauss, a teacher and vice principal at Nahalal elementary school, was constantly surprised and delighted with her visits to all the community's Jewish schools. The kids "want to learn Hebrew," she noted. She "loved seeing the Hebrew words and texts around the classes." Strauss hopes to help impart to her students the same joy and learning of Jewish heritage she saw in Ann Arbor.

Yair Hammer has been involved in P2K for many years. He is always impressed by the time and energy spent on social justice and tzedakah by the communities in Michigan and the richness of Jewish life. Through the activities of this program and the new congregation he and his wife have established in Nahalal, he hopes to help foster these values in Nahalal.

Goals for the partnership

The working meetings were an essential aspect of the visit. Co-Chairs Eva Solomon and Cheryl Sugerman both participated in the 2006 Educators Mission to Israel and returned with a desire to help instill the connection to Israel they felt in their students and others in the community.

Yair Hammer, the Israeli delegation chair, has a similar desire to help people in his community connect to their Jewish identity. The two groups developed three goals for the partnership: 1) to strengthen schools in Ann Arbor and Nahalal through interpersonal and community relationships; 2) to teach about the history of Israel through the microcosm of Nahalal; 3) to create and on-going two-way mentorship between families and Jewish institutions in Ann Arbor and Nahalal to strengthen Jewish identity. A list of next steps was developed, and the two committees will be working during the next months to begin to implement programs to involve the greater community.

Nahalal delegation members want the entire Jewish community to know that their doors are open. They are eager to have Jews from Washtenaw County consider Nahalal their home in Israel. Those planning visits to Israel, short or long, are encouraged to contact Eileen Freed, eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org, for more information about how to arrange home hospitality or day visits at Nahalal. ■

Federation Funds Israel and Overseas Projects

Engaging the local Jewish community's interest in projects to help Jews in Israel and other foreign countries is an important goal of the Israel Overseas Committee (IOC) of the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County. Co-chairs are Mae Sander and Carey Sherman.

In 2007, the Jewish Federation approved the following overseas allocations recommended by the IOC.

Aid to Israel's Minority & Disadvantaged Populations	
SELAH, Israel Crisis Management Center	$15,000
Assistance to immigrants in times of trauma	
Druze Vocational Training Program (JDC)	$15,000
Teaching Druze women to teach Math to preschoolers	
Parents & Children Together (JDC)	$10,000
Closing the education gap for Ethiopian immigrants	
Arab Jewish Understanding	
Hand in Hand Schools	$14,000
Bilingual schools for Arab and Jewish Israeli students	
Partnership 2000	
General Support	$ 5,000
Community-to-Community Project	$16,000
Communities in Crisis Worldwide	
Welfare Relief in the Former Soviet Union (JDC)	$24,000
Welfare Relief in Argentina (JDC)	$ 9,000
Tinok Baby Care in Argentina (JDC)	$ 7,500
Environment	
Building a Path for the Kinneret	$10,000
Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel	

Jewish community benefits from 20007 Humanitarian Award Dinner proceeds

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

The Washtenaw County Jewish community will benefit from creative programs funded by the proceeds of the Jewish Federation's 2007 Humanitarian Award Dinner. Over $95,000 was allocated to new initiatives that provide adult Jewish learning through the Florence Melton Mini-School; welcome newcomers to the community via Shalom Ann Arbor and Shalom Baby programming; and support adult children caregivers of older adults in the Jewish community.

Other programs funded include the Atid: Institute for Future Leaders, a high-quality leadership training program designed to bring together emerging leaders from across the community and give them the skills to make a difference in their home organizations and the community at large; Michigan Jewish Professionals, an emerging professional organization for local Jewish communal professionals; and seed money for a children's library program at Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan. Celebrate Israel, the community's Israel Independence Day celebration, received funds to increase the level of programming during this year of Israel's 60th anniversary.

The allocations were recommended by the Jewish Federation's allocation's committee and approved by the board of directors. Traditionally, Humanitarian Award Dinner honorees are given the opportunity to select a project or organization to which they would like to contribute a portion of the proceeds. This year's honorees, Prue and Ami Rosenthal, elected to support The PJ Library, a new initiative offering free Jewish books and music to young children in our community. Funds allocated to PJ Library will be used to increase marketing and programming to make PJ Library more accessible and engaging for the widest possible audience.

2007 Humanitarian Awards

Florence Melton Mini-School	$14,000
Shalom Baby/Shalom Ann Arbor	$12,500
Adult Caregiver Concierge	$22,000
Atid: Institute for Future Leaders	$25,000
Celebrate Israel	$15,000
MI Jewish Professionals	$ 2,200
Children's Library (AAOM)	$ 1,000
PJ Library	$ 3,600
Total Allocation	$95,300

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Temple Beth Emeth programs

Devon Fitzig, special to the WJN

Hebrew in a Day

Sunday, January 13, 9–4 p.m. at the JCC
Instructor: Pauli Weizman

This class is the perfect opportunity to brush up and feel comfortable with the Hebrew alphabet. It is designed to teach the basics of Hebrew language reading. Food and materials are included. $60 TBE and BIC members/ $80 non-members. To register, call 665-4744 by January 4.

Adult Hebrew winter semester

The winter and spring semesters are a continuation of the fall semester. For a form or for more information, visit www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/adult_education. To register, call 665-4744.

Families with young children

For families with kids from birth to five years old. Older siblings and grandparents are welcome as always. Non members are welcome at all events. For more information, contact Devon Fitzig, dfitzig@templebethemeth.org, 665-4744 or Jill Pritts, jillpritts@yahoo.com.

Tot Shabbat every week

Join for Tot Shabbat every week at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m.. Visit www.templebethemeth.org for details or call 665-4744.

Tot Chanukah & Latke Dinner, Friday, December 7, 6 p.m., $10 for adults, $7 for children under 12. RSVP to 665-4744 or jhaines@templebethemeth.org. Family Chanukah Service at 7:30 p.m., all are welcome.

Tots at Jungle Java on Jackson Road, Sunday, January 6, 10 a.m. (just west of the movie theatre). RSVP to Julie at jbgrand@umich.edu. Cost: $6.50 for 2 and over, $3 for 12 months–23 months, and under 1 and adults are free.

Interfaith Couples Workshop on Interfaith Issues

Interfaith couples and their relatives are encouraged to attend this upcoming session. The workshop features a panel and break-out discussion groups, and meets in at the Jewish Community Center. Childcare is available with advanced notice.

Bris, Baptism, Bat Mitzvah: Navigating Lifecycle Events in the Interfaith Family

Sunday, December 2, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at the JCC. (note time and location change)

Co-sponsored by the Temple Beth Emeth and the Jewish Community Center.

Non-members and relatives of an interfaith couple (Jewish/not Jewish) are welcome, and this event is open to the community. Visit the website at: http://www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/interfaith

For more information, contact Devon Fitzig, dfitzig@templebethemeth.org or 665-4744.

Jewish Single Parent Network at TBE

Connect with other Jewish single parents, share parenting strategies, arrange playdates (for young children), and socialize. For more information, contact Devon Fitzig at dfitzig@templebethemeth.org or 665-4744. The group is open to the community.

Twenties & Thirties

Twenties and Thirties (TNT) of Temple Beth Emeth provides a welcoming, inclusive Jewish community through monthly social and cultural activities. Non-TBE members are welcome. Visit our website at http://www.templebethemeth.org/tnt for upcoming events, email us at tnt@templebethemeth.org or call 665-4744.

TNT Chanukah Dessert Party at Jennie Allan's

Saturday, December 8, 8 p.m.

Bring a White Elephant gift and a menorah. $5 suggested donation. RSVP to Devon at dfitzig@templebethemeth.org by December 1.

Potluck Shabbat Dinner

Friday, January 11, 7 p.m.

RSVP to Dara at dara@detailsart.com.

TNT Planning Meeting at TBE

Monday, January 14, 6:30 p.m.

Dinner provided. RSVP to Devon at dfitzig@templebethemeth.org.

Tu B'shevat Family Program co-sponsored by Jewish Hikers of Michigan

Sunday, January 27, 2-4 p.m., location TBA

Come for an interactive and spiritual program that captures the essence of Tu B'shevat, the Birthday of the Trees. All ages are welcome. Half of the program will take place outdoors. RSVP to jewish.hikers@gmail.com or 665-4744, dfitzig@templebethemeth.org.

Movie Tuesdays

For people with flexible schedules. Monthly Film and Discussion series held on Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m. Coffee and noshes provided. Childcare is available with advanced notice. Movie Tuesdays usually occur on the third Tuesday of the month.

Movie: ***Portrait of an Artist: Marc Chagall***

December 18, 1–3 p.m. at TBE

During his own lifetime, Marc Chagall became a legend—the grand old man of French painting. Born in the Jewish ghetto in provincial Russia, he broke away from the restrictions of poverty and religious constraints to become swept up in the political and artistic maelstrom of the Russian Revolution before moving to Paris, at that time the artistic capital of Europe. This important film was completed shortly before Chagall's death and is the only film made about this great artist during his lifetime.

Movie: ***Left Luggage***

January 15, 1–3 p.m. at TBE

Set in Belgium in the early 1970's, *Left Luggage* is the touching and emotional story of Chaja, a rebellious philosophy student struggling to come of age. Her relationship with her parents, both concentration camp survivors, is strained and she finds herself unable to accept her Jewish identity. A family friend finds her a job as a nanny for a Hassidic family with five children. Joining forces with Mrs. Kalman (Isabella Rossellini) and through her love for the youngest child who doesn't speak, Chaja learns to accept and respect a culture steeped in traditions, and finds the true value of life.

Continuing Jewish Meditation

Wednesdays 7:30–8:45 p.m.

Meditation and group discussion will take place in the TBE Chapel most Wednesdays. Contact Judy Freedman for more information at 769-1709 or freedmanjudy@comcast.net.

December 5, 12 & 19

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Women's Rosh Chodesh

Sunday, December 9 & January 20, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Celebrate the new moon/month in a meaningful gathering of women. Co-sponsored by Caring Community and the TBE Sisterhood, each short service is followed by a discussion, study session, or special presentation. For a complete service schedule, see www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/rosh_chodesh. For more information, contact Abbie Egherman at 975-0828 or aje_2001@yahoo.com. To subscribe to the Rosh Chodesh email list, contact Devon at dfitzig@templebethemeth.org. Childcare may be available with advanced notice.

Mourning & Mitzvah Class

Tuesdays, Jan. 8, 15, 22 & 29

Instructor: Cantor Annie Rose

This course provides an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Jewish mourning customs and practice through reading, discussion, and writing. Designed for those who have experienced loss as well as those seeking knowledge and insight into this important aspect of Jewish life.

The Nature of Human Consciousness within Judaism, with Rabbi Robert Levy

Four Mondays at 7:30 p.m.: February 4 & 11; March 3 & 10.

Rabbi Rami Shapiro sometimes says that he wants to grow up to be the person his dog thinks he is. What does your dog think of you and what does it mean to be human; to be good; to be loving? These issues and others will be explored through Jewish eyes using a variety of sources including film, television and books including *He, She, It*, by Marge Piercy, and some great *Star Trek*.

Activities at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Monday evening Talmud study continues

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin facilitates this ongoing drop-in study sessions based on sections from the Talmudic tractate of Sotah. This tractate features fascinating interpretations on stories from the Torah as well as interesting and intricate legal debates. The text is in Hebrew with English translation, and all discussions are in English. No knowledge of Hebrew is required but those who know Hebrew will be able to use and improve their Hebrew skills. Each session will focus on one particular section of text so one can join anytime. There are no classes on December 24 or 31.

Tot Chanukah Party

On Tuesday, December 11, the Tot Chanukah Party will take place at Beth Israel starting at 5:30 p.m. Families with children through kindergarten are invited to celebrate the last night of Chanukah with a delicious latke and hotdog meal and dreidel games. There will also be arts and crafts where kids can make their own Maccabee Shields. Plus, all children will receive a small gift. Families are asked to bring a menorah from their home for the candle lighting ceremony.

Tot Tu B'shvat Dinner and Seder

Families with children through kindergarten are also invited to a special dinner and program on Monday, January 21 at 5:30 p.m. The Tu B'shvat Seder will include exotic fruits and fruits for which the land of Israel is famous. There is a charge for dinner. For further information and reservation call Jake Kander, Beth Israel Program Director at 769-1651.

Sweatshirt Shabbat Cholent Kiddush

This special Shabbat service and kiddush takes place on Saturday, December 15, with the service starting at 9:30 a.m. Participants may wear their favorite sweatshirt from camp, college, or travel while spending the morning in comfort. The reception following features a cholent sit-down kiddush with an internationally influenced array of hot and hearty cholents, prepared by Beth Israel members and Nikki Klein, the Beth Israel kitchen coordinator. There is no charge.

December 24 Dinner at Chia Shiang

In the long-standing tradition of Jews the world over, the congregation meets at Chia Shiang Restaurant (2016 Packard Road) on Monday, December 24 at 7 p.m. for a sumptuous vegetarian Chinese meal. There is a charge, paid directly to Chia Shiang. For reservations, call Jake Kander 769-1651.

Moadon Junior Congregation

Moadon/Junior Congregation, a drop-in program for elementary school aged children, will met on Saturdays, December 2, 9, & 16 and January 6, 13, 20, and 27 from 10 a.m.–noon.

Chalutzim (third–fifth grade) & Kadima (sixth–eighth grade) Chanukah Party

At noon on Sunday, December 9 children in third–fifth grades are invited to celebrate Chanukah together at the annual Chalutzim and Kadima Chanukah party. Activities include candle dipping, dreidel and other games, and a latke lunch.

Saturday morning Tot Shabbat

Tot Shabbat is held at 11 a.m. the second and fourth Saturday every month for children through kindergarten and their families. The program includes stories, songs, and prayers. Tot Shabbat on December 8 and January 12 are led by Peretz Hirshbein and Tot Shabbat on December 22 and January 26 are led by Jennifer Levine. The programs take place in Room 15 and are followed by a Tot Kiddush.

Shabbat Yoga

On the third Saturday of each month, December 15, and January 19, at 9 a.m. Beth Israel offers a Shabbat yoga class taught by Rachel Portnoy, a registered yoga instructor, on the lower level of Beth Israel, in room 15. The class is a gentle "yoga flow" class which is intended to help increase one's openness and awareness before joining the regular Shabbat service, inspired by the emerging practice of Jewish yoga. Participants are asked to arrive five minutes before the class and bring along some comfortable clothing. Yoga is practiced barefooted on yoga mats. The program is free of charge.

Mussar study group forming

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

A new group is forming at Beth Israel Congregation that takes a centuries' old Jewish tradition and puts it into daily practice to help individuals lead a more meaningful and productive life. The group will run for 13 weeks from January 14–April 11, 2008. The program, including all materials and questions for thought and group discussion provided by The Mussar Institute, costs $100 per person.

The biweekly group meetings at Beth Israel will be led by Roann Altman, who studied Mussar for a year with individuals from all across the country. To provide a better sense of what Mussar is about and what is involved in "doing Mussar," Roann Altman will be available to answer questions following Kiddush on the Shabbat of December 15, around 1 pm. Call 483-8352 or email roann@umich.edu for further information.

Mussar, a contemplative practice dating to the 10th century, became a spiritual movement in the 19th century. Although originally designed as a practice for the Orthodox community, the value of Mussar can be experienced by everyone. It is this vision that has led to the creation of The Mussar Institute (www.mussarinstitute.org), an organization designed to provide the teachings of Mussar for those who would like to bring more light into their life and live their life with greater peace and fulfillment.

The course goes beyond study to actual practice. Using teaching materials sent weekly via email, participants study six middot, or traits, for two weeks each, followed by a concluding week, for a total of 13 weeks. The practice includes daily focusing on the middah (trait) of the week along with journaling that relates the middah to events occurring in one's life. In addition to this intensive self-examination, every other week participants will come together at Beth Israel to share how they have been incorporating the middot into their lives. This combination of self-study and group meetings is what gives the course its power. Those who have studied in this way have reported amazing changes in their lives along with a greater feeling of connectedness. The course, which has been offered to individuals around the country for the past six years, is now being offered for us here in Ann Arbor.

The rewards are great for those who are immersed in the process. The course requires a commitment to do the readings, engage in intensive self-reflection, and participate in the biweekly group meetings, which will be held on alternate Tuesday evenings from 7:30–9:30 pm. If you are interested in enrolling in the course, email Roann Altman (roann@umich.edu) no later than Friday, December 21.

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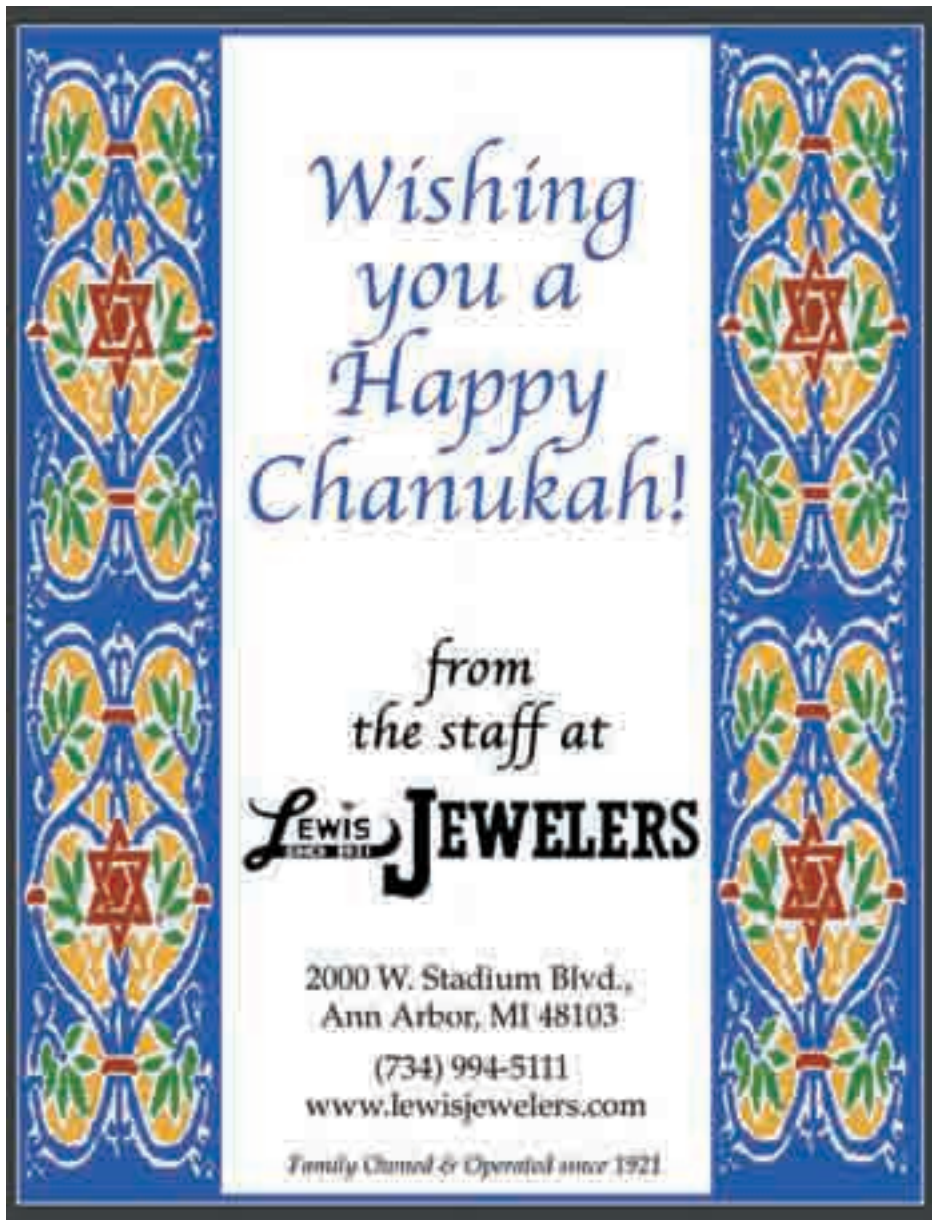

Rambam, the Second Moses, topic for December program

Danny Steinmetz, special to the WJN

Jack Love

Jewish scholar Jack Love will address the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah as part of its Service-and-Discussion night Friday, December 14 at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. The Rambam (an acronym for Rabbi Moses Ben Maimon) was referred to by medieval Jews as the second Moses. He is commonly known in English as Maimonides. His works spanned philosophy, Jewish law, and medicine. He also served as leader of the Jewish community in what is now Cairo and as physician to the royal court.

When the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized a conference for the 850th anniversary of the Rambam's birth in 1985, participants included the expected Jewish scholars as well as Christian and Muslim scholars, since his works continue to be studied in both of those traditions. The late Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg described Iranians who would otherwise not talk to Israelis participating collegially in the event.

The talk on December 14 will include a brief survey of the life and letters of Maimonides. It will touch on the reasons for the success of the Rambam's views in the modern world, despite the rocky reception he received in his own lifetime and for a century thereafter.

Active participation and learning will be the hallmark of the evening's program. The evening will open with a brief service at 6:15 p.m. followed by the presentation and open discussion.

The presenter, Jack Love, received a master's degree in Near Eastern Languages and Literature from the University of California at Berkeley. From 1978 to 1988 Love led the Hebrew Language department of Lehrhaus Judaica while also serving as associate director of the Berkeley Hillel Foundation. Since moving to Michigan in 1988, Love has taught numerous courses in Jewish history, language, and literature at the Reconstructionist synagogue of Lansing, Kehillat Israel. Love is the author of *Understanding Classical Hebrew: A Simplified Approach* and is currently working on the second edition.

Free childcare will be available with advance reservations. For more information on this program, call Aura Ahuvia, 975-9045. To learn more about the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, visit http://www.aarecon.org. ■

Reconstructionist Havurah retreat at Camp Talahi

Allison Stupka, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah celebrated Sukkot its seventh annual retreat this year at Camp Talahi in Brighton. The theme was "Guests in the World," and several workshops explored this theme. Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Naturalist, Faye Stoner, led a two hour "survivor mensh" hike where participants gained first hand knowledge of indigenous plants. Jack Edelstein and Aaron Ahuvia led a discussion of shelter in contemporary Israel. Other workshops included "Accessible Prayer" led by Abby Weinberg and a cooking class on Judeo Indian food of Calcutta, which Chava Israel led. Participants also danced to live Klezmer music led under the suberb direction of Drake Meadow. The weather could not have been better, with 70 degrees and sun, and several services were led in the sukkah. As commanded, the Havurah was joyful during Sukkot! ■

Retreat attendees celebrated Sukkot together

Not by might and not by power

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

The Haftarah readings usually are connected thematically with the reading of the Torah for that particular Shabbat. However, on many occasions during the year, the Haftarah readings are not connected with the Torah reading but with a holiday being celebrated on or near that day.

For this reason, we do not often read the Haftarah associated with Parashat Mikketz. That reading is the famous story of Solomon and the two women who come to him each claiming to be the mother of a baby. Solomon demonstrates his wisdom in this story by threatening to cut the baby in half. One woman protests this plan, preferring to have the baby given to the other woman. Solomon identifies her as the mother because of her compassion for the baby.

As meaningful as that story is and as nicely as it connects to the Torah portion which is about Joseph's interpretation of dreams, Mikketz is usually the Shabbat of Chanukah and so we have a special reading, from the prophet Zechariah, whose vision of a rebuilt Temple is inspiring and whose vision of a Menorah connects with the story of Chanukah.

Zechariah's vision ends with the glorious statement: "Not by might, not by power but by my spirit said the Lord of Hosts." The reference is not necessarily to be seen as a general statement of pacifism, rather a statement regarding the rebuilding of the Temple itself. As Professor Michael Fishbane writes: "By giving Zechariah's prophecy a proclamatory ending … the sages transformed the text into an ever-present divine warning: Groups aiming to 'force the end' through military might or by inducing the Temple's restoration should reconsider such plans of action."

This is a very serious commentary regarding a very important passage. In our world today, with religious extremism fueling so many conflicts and with so many acting violently in the name of religion, we need to listen to Zechariah's words very closely.

While, again, we need not look at the prophet's message as an absolute statement that military force is never appropriate, we need to be very careful indeed not to imagine that we can further sanctify God's presence in the world through acts of war.

In the Talmudic discussion relating to Chanukah, the reason given for lighting the menorah as we do, increasing the light each night, is that ma'alin bikodesh v'ayn moridim, we increase holiness rather than decrease. We seek greater light rather than less. Similarly, as we seek to understand how to relate to conflict in the world, we must first use the gift of wisdom that God has given us to try to solve problems, as Solomon did, with enlightenment, insight, and clarity rather than resorting to violence and force.

While there is no doubt that the Maccabees are the heroes of the Chanukah story and that their faith, commitment, and bravery are to be honored, such bravery can and ideally should be reflected in ways other than military actions. This reality has caused the story of Chanukah to undergo changes of emphasis as the centuries have gone along, as Jews have struggled to understand how this experience of long ago should affect our thinking today.

If you look at the original source for the story of Chanukah, the book of Macabees from the Apocrypha, you will find no mention of the little jug of oil that burned for eight days. That story appears for the first time in the Talmud, which was written centuries after the Macabean revolt. Many feel that the Rabbis of the Talmud either created or, at the very least, uncovered the story of the oil in order to move the observance of Chanukah away from the celebration of the military victory of the Macabees to a spiritual celebration of the importance of freedom and courage.

This is a reminder that we should seek to address problems in ways that are constructive rather than destructive. While we should honor those who have risen to defend our people and our cause, we must never put our ultimate faith in might or in power, rather in God's spirit. ■

Chanukah on the J Site and 136 holiday links

WJN *staff writers*

How many candles do we need for all of Chanukah? What type of foods do we specifically eat on Chanukah? What activities are forbidden during Chanukah? These and many more essential holiday questions are answered on the Chanukah Trivia Quiz featured on the J Site website.

To access the Chanukah Trivia Quiz—and explore the other fun features of the J Site (Jewish Education and Entertainment) website—visit http://www.j.co.il. When you are ready to test your expertise in Chanukah facts, click on the "Jewish Trivia Quiz" option and then select "Chanukah." There are two levels of questions, and two timer settings. Both kids and adults will find it enjoyable.

Additional Chanukah resources and games on the J site include free Chanukah clipart, a multilingual word search game (English/Hebrew/Russian), the Hebrew hangman game, a Hebrew songbook, and a Jewish coloring book.

The J Site has something for everyone, but if that is not enough, here's another website that has 136 links about Chanukah, from laws and customs to games and recipes. The address is: http://www.jr.co.il/hotsites/j-hdaych.htm. There are links to Chanukah websites in eight languages: English, Hebrew, Russian, Spanish, French, Portuguese, German and Italian. Are you are wondering how there can be so many Chanukah websites? Just keep in mind the vastness of the Jewish imagination: there's a site full of Chanukah certificates and another one that shows how to make a potato menorah. Enjoy the Jewish Internet. ■

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Eight books to light up Chanukah

Annabelle Stevens, special to the WJN

It's time to pull out your recipes for those special Chanukah traditions—heaping tablespoons of family and friends, a pinch of shopping for the kids, and plenty of candles, latkes and dreidels.

Amidst the whirlwind of the celebration, how do you make Chanukah meaningful to children during the "season of consumerism"?

Harold Grinspoon, philanthropist and founder of The PJ Library, the non-profit national year-round Jewish children's book gifting program, offers a simple answer: "There are so many wonderful books about Chanukah—why not wrap some up for your children?"

"Then read the books together with your kids," suggests Grinspoon, "You'll be putting more quality family time into Chanukah. You may be surprised, it could create a whole new family tradition—gathering around to hear Chanukah stories read aloud while the candles glow."

Grinspoon asked The PJ Library book selection committee to research and find the children's books that best convey the messages and spirit of Chanukah. Here are their picks (including one music CD):

When Mindy Saved Hanukah
by Eric Kimmel *(publisher: Scholastic)*

Living in New York City's historic Eldridge Street shul is a family of little people, akin to The Borrowers. When the synagogue's ferocious cat, Antiochus, threatens to ruin the family's Hanukkah, Mindy and Grandpa recapitulate the story of the Macabbees to save the holiday. Humorous characters and an engaging story are illustrated with Victorian charm.

The Only One Club
by Jane Naliboff *(publisher: Flashlight Press)*

This book helps Jewish children who are in a true minority setting understand that everyone is "only one" of something. In a public school during the December holidays, six-year old Jennifer rejoices in her holiday while her class comes together to celebrate each person's uniqueness.

Shirlala Chanukah Music CD
by Shira Kline *(label: Shira Kline)*

Shira Kline's boundless energy is contagious in this wonderful Chanukah music CD-certain to be a family favorite long after the eighth candle has gone out.

Runaway Latkes
by Leslie Kimmelman
(publisher: Albert Whitman & Company)

In a delightful take-off on "The Gingerbread Boy," three crisp, brown latkes roll out of Rebecca Bloom's frying pan. Off they go, through the town, causing everyone to join in the chase, including the rabbi, the cantor, and the mayor. There is no serious message here, just a joyful celebration of Chanukah for young children to applaud.

It's a Miracle!
by Stephanie Spinner *(publisher: Simon & Schuster)*

On each night of Hanukkah, Grandma Karen tells Owen a bedtime story, all of which remind Owen of people in his family. The characters come alive and strong Jewish values are expressed through a felicitous blend of dialogue and illustration. This is a charmingly illustrated modern picture book, with every literary and artistic element contributing to an outstanding whole.

Latkes, Latkes Good to Eat
by Naomi Howland *(publisher: Clarion Books)*

A Chanukah tale of a poor girl in an Eastern European village is rewarded for her generosity by receiving the gift of a magic frying pan. The illustrations are striking.

I Have a Little Dreidel
by Maxie Baum
(publisher: Scholastic)

This illustrated version of the familiar dreidel song cleverly adds new verses detailing a contemporary family's celebration of Hanukkah.

It's Hanukkah
by Santiago Cohen *(publisher: Blue Apple Books)*

The sparkly candles and catchy rhymes make this board book a yummy Chanukah treat for young readers.

About The PJ Library

The PJ Library is not a physical library, but a highly acclaimed national program of The Harold Grinspoon Foundation. It actively gifts high-quality, age-appropriate Jewish children's books, free-of-charge each month, to Jewish families with young children. Since its inception in December 2005, The PJ Library has distributed more than 60,000 books per year to children. Operating in over 50 Jewish communities across the U.S., the program is rapidly expanding, projected to double by the end of 2008. Two organizations in Ann Arbor offer PJ Library; The Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County and Temple Beth Emeth—and over 260 children are enrolled.

The PJ Library Book Selection Committee is comprised of leaders of the Association of Jewish Libraries, early childhood specialists of Jewish day schools, book editors, synagogue librarians, and curriculum developers from throughout the United States.

About The Harold Grinspoon Foundation

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation's mission is to enhance the vibrancy of Jewish life through education and experiences that impart the knowledge and values of our heritage and the joys of being Jewish. The Foundation funds institutions and programs that directly transmit Jewish learning to young people, adults, and families. ■

Washtenaw County residents can enroll in the PJ Library at www.jewishannarbor.org/. The PJ Library director in Ann Arbor (for the Federation) is Laura Berger and can be reached at laura@jewishannarbor.org or 677-0100.

Havurah, Beit Sefer host Chanukah Party

Alicia Kent, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah and its Beit Sefer (religious school) invites kids and adults to its second annual Chanukah Party on Sunday, December 9, from 4–7 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. Festivities will include food, songs, and crafts for all ages including a latke-making workshop, cookie decorating, and a dreidel-spinning contest.

"We invite one and all to celebrate with us," said Danny Steinmetz, Havurah board chair. "We're looking forward to sharing the tradition of lighting the menorah together, general schmoozing, and festive celebration with old and new friends."

The party will begin with a group menorah lighting, led by the students of the Beit Sefer. All who bring menorahs will have an opportunity to light one. Jennifer Cohen will teach participants how to make latkes and will share her famous latke recipe. Then all will share in eating them with homemade applesauce and sour cream. Students of the Beit Sefer will also conduct a short shiur (lesson) on the surprisingly recent tradition of the potato latke.

For those hoping to expand their dreidel repertoire, students from the Beit Sefer will teach a variety of dreidel games. And for those who think they have the knack, there will be a contest to determine dreidel-spinning expertise, including special competitions for skills such as spinning dreidels upside down.

All ages are invited to join. Participants are asked to bring a vegetarian side dish or salad. All are encouraged to bring a menorah and seven candles to light (six candles for the sixth night and one candle for the shammes).

There is no charge for Havurah members. Non-members are asked to make a $10 donation per household (or $5 per individual). RSVP to info@aarecon.org.

Community invited to JCC Chanukah Celebration

The Latke Hop, a family Chanukah celebration, sponsored by the Benard L. Maas Foundation, will take place at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County on Saturday, December 8, from 6–9 p.m. There will be games and crafts, Havdalah, dinner, and live music and dancing with Jake Kander and Rob Gutman. Member prices are $12 per adult and $6 per child over the age of two. For non-members, tickets are $14 per adult and $7 per child over the age of two. For reservations call the JCC at 971-0990.

TBE Brotherhood sponsors Latke Dinner

Marv Wagner, special to the WJN

The Temple Beth Emeth Brotherhood will once again be offering a Latke Dinner on Friday, December 7, at 6 p.m. This annual family Chanukah event typically serves over 350 people, with latkes, hot dogs, and all of the fixings. A macaroni and cheese dinner will also be provided for the Tots.

The Friday night service, following the dinner, includes lighting of the menorahs in the sanctuary. The cost for the dinner is $10 for adults $7 for children under 12. Reservations are required. To make reservations, call the office at 665-4744.

Brotherhood will also sponsor Coffee Corner on December 1 and December 15 during religious school. This is a chance to come shmooze while the kids are in class. Enjoy coffee and bagels, compliments of Brotherhood.

Do you have gently read books you don't need? The Brotherhood is collecting used books for a sale to be held in February. Donations can be dropped off at the temple office, where you can also receive a tax donation slip. For information on this or any other Brotherhood events, contact TBE at 665-4744.

JCC Chanukah Boutique

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's Chanukah Boutique will remain open during regular business hours through the end of Chanukah. Items for sale include children's books, dreidles, Chanukah gelt, decorations, wrapping paper, menorahs, Chanukah candles and children's toys. For more information, contact the JCC at 971-0990.

JCC/ECC celebrates with Intergenerational Chanukah Party

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw Count's Early Childhood Center will hold its annual Intergeneration Chanukah party on Thursday, December 6, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This year, the children of the preschool would like to invite members of the community to share their Chanukah artifacts and the stories behind them.

The children will be experiencing many different kinds of Chanukiot (menorahs), using them as inspiration for their own Chanukah creations. Community members are invited to bring their own Chanukah artifacts to the Jewish Community Center to show the children, tour the classrooms, see the children's Chanukiot, and join the children for Chanukah singing, dancing, and lunch.

For more information, call the ECC at 971-0990, or email ndeyoung@umich.edu.

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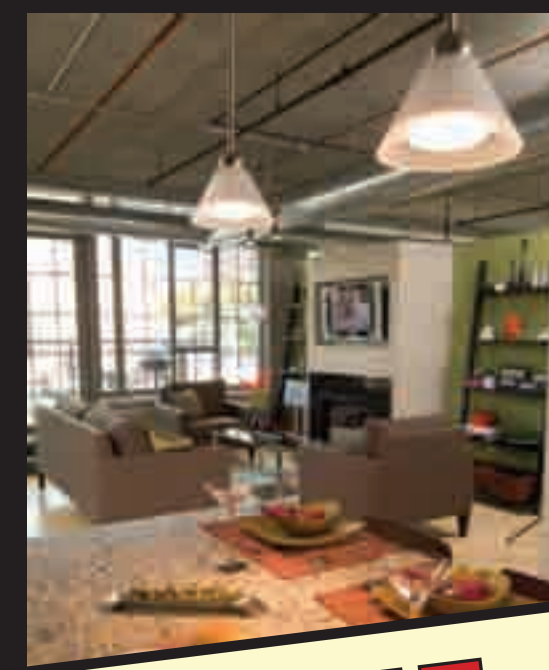

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Ann Arbor: a living science lab for Hebrew Day School students

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

What scientist wouldn't dream of a laboratory filled with trees, bees, riparian ecosystems, the latest in green building technology, and multitudes of stars within easy reach? Amazingly, the students at Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor are able to take advantage of just such a place—Ann Arbor. HDS students practice science not only in their classrooms, but also in the community of Ann Arbor which offers a multitude of venues for science exploration.

A few minutes walk from Hebrew Day School is Malletts Creek, where fifth graders analyzed water samples as part of a worldwide water monitoring project sponsored by the Jewish National Fund through support from the U.S. Forest Service. The students tested the creek water for temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and pH, and will post their results on a web site to compare the quality of water in Ann Arbor with water in 50 countries around the world.

Also a few minutes walk from the school is Malletts Creek Branch Library, where students learned not only about effective library research techniques, but also about the library's vegetated roof and careful landscaping designed to help keep the creek water clean. They also learned about the library's environmentally friendly features such as its use of radiant heat, convective cooling and renewable resources. Students learned that the message of caring for the community can come hand-in-hand with instruction in modern technology.

Shearing wool. (left to right: Mira Strauss, Ahava Koplad, Shoshana Leflein)

Sophia Eisenbeiser and Yonatan Hodish take water samples from Malletts Creek

The Cobblestone Farm Center, nearby on Packard, is also a living science laboratory for the HDS students, who on a recent visit were introduced to pioneer living—shearing wool, churning butter, and examining kernels of corn.

In addition to the fantastic opportunities available within a stone's throw of the school, HDS students are no strangers to traveling further into Ann Arbor in the quest for scientific learning. Younger students extended their study of native trees and plants by visiting the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens where they were guided through the Garden's grounds and the exotic plants housed in its conservatory. Their study of plants and vegetation continued back in the classroom with dissecting pumpkins, measuring a pumpkin's diameter and perimeter, counting its seeds, and then baking the seeds and making pumpkin bread. Students also visited living specimens right outside their classroom on the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County grounds, where they examined fall leaves. The leaves were then used as inspiration for making leaf cookies back in the classroom—complete with fall-color sprinkles.

Another important spot in the Ann Arbor living science lab is Pioneer High School. Second and third graders explore the world of the stars and planets at the High School's Argus planetarium, after first receiving a preparatory visit from a planetarium staff member in their own classroom.

Added to the science explored in and around the community, is the science that exists in the school's own backyard and right in the classroom. Learning about the relationship between apples, trees, and bees, the kindergarteners ("gansters") step outside their classroom and with their own eyes observe the bees buzzing around apple trees. Back in the classroom, the students role-play life inside of a hive, and the important bond between bees and plants.

At Hebrew Day School, hands-on science is one of the building blocks for community engagement and active learning. With the wealth of resources available in this community, it is little wonder that the expeditions and activities described above are but a few examples of the ways in which Hebrew Day School's students and teachers reach into the community to study and learn in the tremendous science laboratory that surrounds us. ■

For more information about Hebrew Day School, call 971-4633 or visit www.hdsaa.org. Open Houses for prospective families will be held on Monday, December 3 and Thursday, January 17, both at 7 p.m. in the kindergarten room, 2937 Birch Hollow Drive.

Mara Metler counts seeds from her pumpkin

Emma Block and Lianna Dunietz dissecting owl pellets

Examining plants at the Botanical Gardens (left to right: HDS students. Lily Rosenberg, Gary Pinsky, Hila Popovtzer)

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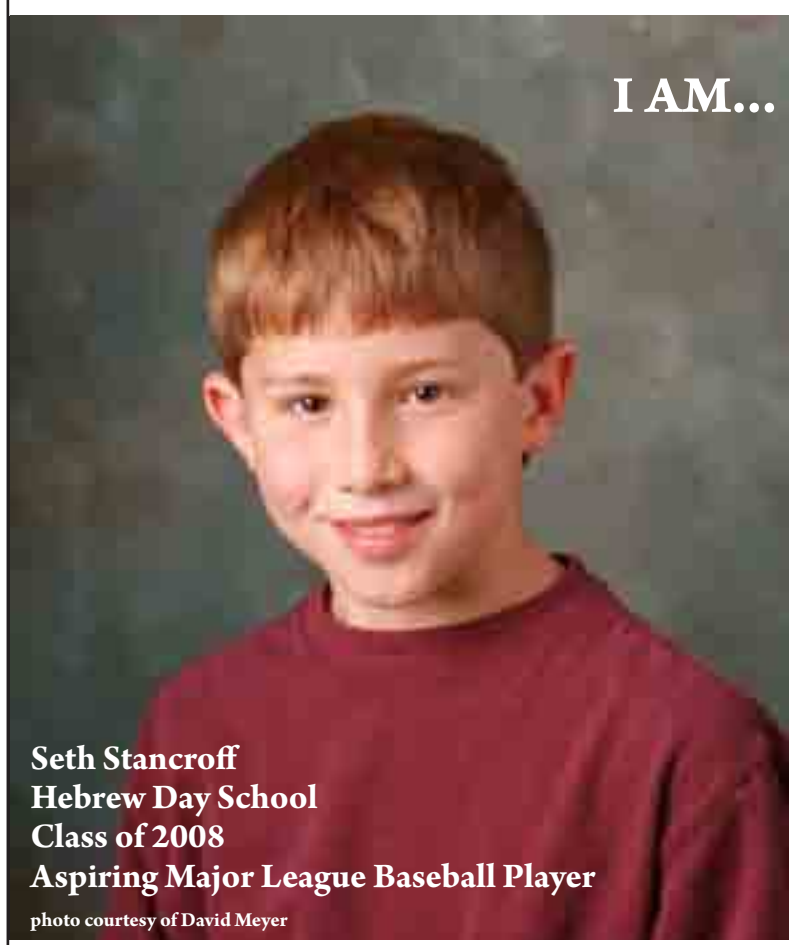

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Athlete on AA Rec and Ed Sports Teams

Participant in Cystic Fibrosis Walkathon

Member of Temple Beth Emeth

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JCC welcomes new youth/teen/camp director

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County is excited to announce that Deborah Huerta has joined the staff as the new youth, teen, and camp director.

Huerta grew up in Southfield, Michigan as an active member of the metro-Detroit Jewish community. She led her temple's youth group, taught Sunday School and Hebrew School and organized Jewish teen conferences while in high school. These positive experiences and her love for Jewish languages, including Hebrew and Yiddish, led her to pursue a major in Judaic Studies while at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

During her undergraduate years, Huerta worked at a Jewish summer camp, ran the Humanistic Havurah at the University of Michigan's Hillel and tutored other undergraduate students in Hebrew. She went on to pursue her master's degree in Judaic Studies at the U-M, and is currently completing her master's thesis on the development of new religious movements in American Judaism since World War II. She met her husband while at U-M, and they were married in August at the Michigan Union.

Deborah Huerta

Huerta is looking forward to applying her love for working with youth and her passion for dynamic Jewish cultural programming as the new youth, teen, and camp director. She comments "I am incredibly excited to be joining the wonderful team at the JCC. I encourage parents, children, and teens to contact me with ideas, questions, or suggestions." Huerta's email is deborahhuerta@jccfed.org. ■

Preschool Winter Fun Days

Esther Goldstein, special to the WJN

On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, December 24, 26, and 28 the Gan Yeladim Playgroup will offer Winter Fun Days for preschoolers ages three to five. The groups will meet from 9 a.m. to noon, and will include creative and fun activities. The playgroup is sponsored by Ann Arbor Chabad House.

Children will have the opportunity to do arts and crafts, sing songs, hear stories, do baking, and more. The week will culminate with a Shabbat party to which parents and siblings will also be invited. All preschoolers are invited to join in this exciting and enriching opportunity, offered at the subsidized rate of $36 for the full program. Enrollment is limited.

To register or for more information, contact Esther Goldstein at esther@jewmich.com or call 864-1870.

Take Hebrew, it's good for you

Milka Eliav, special to the WJN

Local teens from all walks of the Jewish community meet twice a week to have fun. And learn Hebrew. It's called "Keshet": a unique academic program for high school students who wish to "take Hebrew" as their foreign language of choice. Since modern Hebrew is not offered at our local high schools, the Ann Arbor Public Schools allows students to take it outside of school and get credit for it, as long as high standards of teaching and learning are maintained.

Keshet offers four levels, from beginners to advanced, and each level has a dedicated, professional teacher who truly cares about the progress and success of each student.

The Beginner class, led by the experienced University of Michigan Hebrew Instructor Pauli Weizman, started from "aleph-bet" just two months ago, but they are already "experts" in describing themselves, their likes and dislikes in Hebrew. Since there are only girls in this class (by pure coincidence) they draw a boy on the board every week, to practice the masculine form….

The Advanced Beginner class has been focusing on schedule and mealtime vocabulary. They can tell you what they'd like for breakfast and what it is they do every morning. Between quizzes and reading exercises, this lively group enjoys the good spirits of their Israeli teacher, Gilla Wiesel, whose positive attitude is catchy.

In the Intermediate class, the phone rings and questions are asked regarding the number of balconies in one Tel Aviv apartment. These students can help you name the different rooms, count them and describe them with great ease. Next topic: a trip to the Chinese restaurant on Packard with teacher, U-M Hebrew instructor, Ilan Rosenberg, to practice food and restaurant vocabulary.

The Advanced group, with mostly Hebrew Day School alumni, is led by Malli Holoshitz. These students are very comfortable speaking only Hebrew, and their class reflects that. They read the "Sha'ar LaMatchil" newspaper, especially written for advanced learners of the language; it offers a wide range of topics and themes, and allows the students to integrate previous knowledge with new material.

Keshet students gain a well-rounded perspective of the language, with focus on conversation and communication. They enjoy pizza once a week and an age-appropriate Israeli movie every other month. The commitment and motivation these students demonstrate are outstanding; they find time for Hebrew in their already busy schedules. Evidently, it's worth it!

Keshet is funded and supported by grants from the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County, Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, the Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan and by donations from parents and members of the community. ■

To join Keshet, or to get more information, contact milka@umich.edu.

Camp Young Judaea Midwest offers $1,000 camper incentive grants to the first 75 applicants

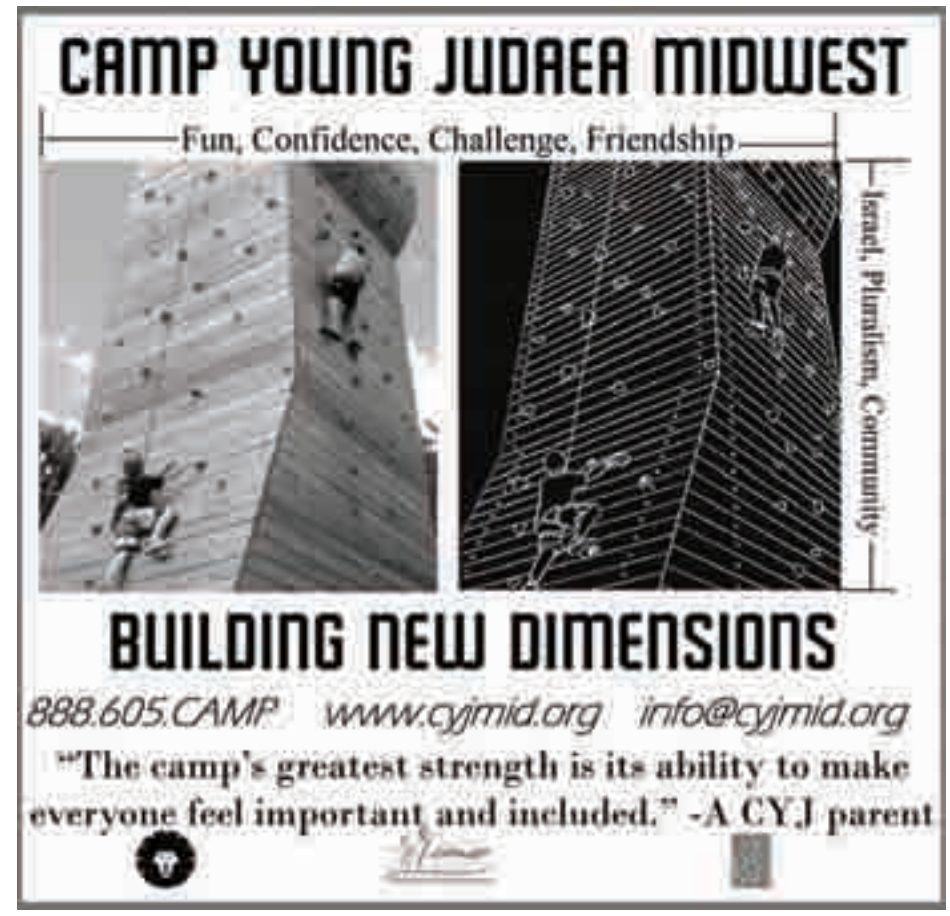
Robin Anderson, special to the WJN

Camp Young Judaea Midwest is pleased to invite 75 new families to receive $1000 toward the summer 2008 tuition for one child attending a three-week session. This camper incentive is limited and will be distributed to eligible families upon receipt of the completed grant application. This grant is not based on need. Camp Young Judaea Midwest is thankful to the Foundation for Jewish Camping and National Young Judaea for their efforts in creating this opportunity for its campers.

Camp Young Judaea Midwest, one of the six regional camps across America sponsored by Hadassah, is located in Waupaca, Wisconsin. Each summer nearly 300 campers from across the Midwest participate in the Young Judaea camp experience. Located on 80 acres on the Chain-O-Lakes in central Wisconsin, Camp Young Judaea Midwest's programs include horseback riding, sports, arts and crafts, drama, field trips, a high ropes course and many other experiential activities.

The staff of Camp Young Judaea Midwest place a special emphasis on Jewish heritage and a connection to Israel. Each age group has a theme-oriented program consisting of informal educational activities programmed by the staff members. Camp Young Judaea Midwest is equipped with a kosher kitchen and provides a meaningful Shabbat experience. Camp Young Judaea Midwest is a coed camp, for children currently in the second through tenth grades. ■

For more information about Camp Young Judaea Midwest, visit www.cyjmid.org or call (847) 328-4942. To receive a copy of the camper incentive grant application, email director@cyjmid.org.



Op Ed: To live or die in Jerusalem

By Robert G. Faber

Two beautiful young ladies, enough alike to be 17 and 18 year-old sisters — except that one was the Israeli victim of a suicide bombing and the other the victim of conditions that made her the suicide bomber. Five years ago Ayat al-Akhras, the Palestinian youngster, detonated her bomb in a Jerusalem supermarket, killing herself and Rachel Levy, her civilian Israeli counterpart. The intended purpose and its consequence, reflected in the documentary "To Die In Jerusalem," is the controversial question and the enduring sadness.

Set up by an Israeli filmmaker, the two mothers spoke to each other via satellite and the resulting dialogue was both sad and instructive, each of them feeling distraught and completely lost to the other. The Israeli mother tried desperately to get the Palestinian mother to voice and share her grief, but she was unable to penetrate that mother's wall of anger and defense. Understandably, Mrs. al-Akhras was unable to come to terms with her daughter's death and was convinced that the tragedy was not of her daughter's own doing, but was the inevitable result of all the horrors attending the current Palestinian existence as impoverished and persecuted nomads and of her daughter's determination to try to relieve or reverse those tragic conditions.

The larger problem was that neither woman, each caught up in her own unbearable loss, was able to understand or deal with the pervasive history of the conflict that precipitated the carnage and the bitter deadlock. The catastrophic loss of Mrs. Levy's daughter from the innocent act of going to the market is unimaginable for most of us, but perhaps even more troubling, because of the preceding and continuing life of misery of the parents as dispossessed refugees, is the death of their daughter, the single bright spot in a continuing life of despair. But the most troubling note was the inability of either mother to understand the nature and underlying history of the dispute and the consequent unlikelihood of ever resolving the conflict that had killed both girls and was destroying both societies.

The Palestinian refugees remember happier times when they had their own homes, in their own land, exercising some reasonable degree of control over their own lives — a time that collapsed with the declaration of Israeli statehood. Their bitterness is reasonable and understandable, but does not exist in a vacuum. Right or wrong, the Palestinian land of pre- and post- Israeli statehood was broadly considered the only refuge for millions of Jews facing annihilation — in the German Holocaust and the Tsarist-sponsored destruction of the Russian shtetls and the Czech and Polish and Hungarian and worldwide pogroms — and increasingly emulated by most of the Arab states. It was during that period of 1946-1948, through expulsion and escape from violent persecution, that the population of 850,000 Jewish residents living in the neighboring Arab lands was reduced to just 17,000. That anti-Semitism, endemic to the region for preceding centuries, was largely the result of the racist manipulations of such powerful Arab leaders as the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, whose embrace of Hitler and of his dream of a "Juden free" world, mirrored his own. Finding sanctuary in the lightly settled lands of Palestine may have been poorly conceived, even cruelly implemented, and was certainly organized without adequate concern or consultation with the resident Arab population, but as the only alternative to the certainty of continuing annihilation it was not altogether unreasonable.

But more to the point, all of that is now history. Concentration on past misdeeds may help satisfy the hunger for revenge and provide justification for some sins of the moment, but does nothing to resolve the destructive problems of continuing and expanding animosity. The Palestinian mother's perfectly reasonable excuse for her daughter's act of suicide/murder is the loss of her home to the Jews in 1948, but now – sixty years and four wars and endless pain and conflict later — it is time to move on. In the end, these continuing wars of words and disputes of historical mini-facts — embraced and fanned by American supporters who express a passion for justice but insist on stirring the cauldron of continuing violence — will have changed nothing for the better. The violence and death that mark that beleaguered land will continue to consume the region's people and their children and their children's children. It is too late to turn back the clock, too late to undo perceived injustices that are facts of history — and too late to have ego-driven activists outside the conflict adding new fuel to the frenzy in a misguided effort to support the underdog. The only hope is for the region's antagonists to meet and talk and search together for a less destructive future, to create a dialogue that has some degree of reason and logic and perhaps even a little compassion, so that these two mothers — and perhaps their friends and families — will finally be able to sit together and talk together and maybe even to work together about tomorrow. Naive? Perhaps, but not outlandish — and certainly with more hope than they have now. ■

With Iran set to get nukes, Israel plans for "day after"

By Roy Eitan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli government contractors for years have been discreetly digging a bunker network under Jerusalem to allow the nation's leaders to survive a future nuclear strike.

It's a worst-case scenario, but with Israeli intelligence experts saying Iran could acquire a nuclear arsenal as soon as 2009, the unthinkable has edged closer to reality for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's administration.

Olmert aides reportedly are quietly compiling a memorandum on how to deal with an atomic Iran, according to a Reuters report Thursday that cited political and defense sources. A senior official in the Prime Minister's Office denied the report, according to Israel Radio.

The news comes as the International Atomic Energy Commission, a U.N. nuclear watchdog, has issued findings censuring Iran for its lack of cooperation. Iran maintains its nuclear ambitions are for peaceful purposes, but Israel and most Western governments believe otherwise.

Now even the IAEA, which Olmert and others have blasted for downplaying the Iranian threat, says it cannot be certain the Iranians do not have a secret nuclear arms program.

The Olmert government's secret "day after" study focuses on the need to preserve Israel's military edge in the face of an Iranian bomb and shoring up Israel's public morale and economy in the face of the Iranian menace, according to the Reuters report.

An Israeli official with knowledge of strategic planning told JTA that for now, the government's priority regarding Iran's nuclear program remains preventive rather than reactive.

"First, we must make clear that this is a threat not just to Israel but to the wider world," said Ami Ayalon, a minister in Olmert's security Cabinet. "Second, we must exhaustively consider all preventive options. And third, we must anticipate the possibility of those options not working."

When he was prime minister, Menachem Begin famously pledged never to allow an enemy of the Jewish state to develop the means to destroy it. Olmert has reiterated that promise, but a grim realism may be taking hold behind Israel's tough rhetoric on Iran.

The idea of Israel idly watching Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a Holocaust denier who wants Israel "wiped off the map,"as he builds his nuclear weapons may seem incongruous with the Zionist spirit.

Under Begin, Israel bombed Iraq's main nuclear reactor in 1981, driving underground Saddam Hussein's premier program for building weapons of mass destruction.

With Israel's mysterious Sept. 6 airstrike on Syria this year, many believe that Olmert also deprived another regional foe of a reactor.

But Iran is no Saddam-era Iraq, nor does Tehran invite comparisons to the febrile Syria of Bashar Assad. Iran's nuclear facilities are numerous, well defended and approximately 700 miles from the Mediterranean.

Simply, they may be too tough to destroy even for Israel's venerable air force.

That leaves only the possibility of U.S. President Bush ordering preemptive action against Iran before he leaves office in January 2009.

"We got a leader in Iran who has announced that he wants to destroy Israel," Bush said last month. "If you're interested in avoiding World War III, it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing them from having the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon."

Tactically, it would be possible for the U.S. military to carry out a strike against Iran despite its existing commitments in the region -U.S. ground forces, not strategic Air Force bombers, are the ones overextended in Iraq.

Nevertheless, given Bush's major setbacks in Iraq, and with little support at home or abroad for another conflict in the oil-producing Persian Gulf region, the American leader would have to think twice about a preemptive attack on Iran.

Both Bush and Olmert have endorsed international efforts to curb Iran's nuclear program through diplomatic pressure. There have been two rounds of U.N. Security Council sanctions, and the major powers are due to meet next week to discuss a third round.

But Iran so far has shrugged off the measures, insisting it will press ahead with a project its officials define as peaceful but which Tehran is happy to hint could one day threaten the "Zionist entity."

"We are not after military technology," Iran's ISNA news agency quoted former chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani as saying.

Larijani said Western nations should "make friends with a country that has made progress and has necessary capabilities rather than fight with it because those capabilities could be used against enemies."

Some experts say Iran's suspected nuclear weapons program may be aimed not so much at destroying Israel but at significantly broadening Iran's influence and power in the region. The anxiety alone over Iran's suspected program already has earned Tehran expanded influence and, in some cases, admiration.

Israel's secret plan considers both the possibilities of living under the threat of a nuclear strike and repelling an actual attack.

For a country as tiny as Israel, there is no question that even a single nuclear strike could not be absorbed. Last year's Lebanon war, during which Israel suffered approximately 4,000 Hezbollah rocket strikes, showed the home front's limitations even under conventional attack.

So Israel must look to its defensive and offensive capabilities for fending off an Iranian missile salvo.

Israel already has the Arrow II, a missile-killer system designed to shoot down incoming Iranian Shihabs or Syrian Scuds. But military analysts say the Arrow may not be up to the task of knocking down a deluge of missiles.

Faced with such arguments, Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak announced last month that in partnership with the Pentagon, a more advanced version of the system, Arrow III, was being developed.

The initiative, Barak said, "can prevent war because a country that has this system cannot be threatened by missiles."

Then there is the "second strike" defense — a Cold War doctrine under which a country deters a nuclear strike by preserving the capability to destroy its enemy even after sustaining a catastrophic atomic attack.

Israel's second-strike platform is widely believed to be its fleet of German-supplied Dolphin submarines. If the Dolphins carry nuclear missiles, as is assumed, in theory they could fire them at Iran no matter what happens on land. Iran knows this.

Israel has three Dolphins in operation, with another two on order from Germany.

Signaling the importance of its strategic sea assets, Israel in August appointed a former navy chief, retired Adm. Shaul Horev, to head its Atomic Energy Commission. ■

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As Chavez goes authoritarian, Venezuela Jews fear for future

By Larry Luxner

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Venezuelans heading to the polls this week will be voting on some rather drastic changes to the nation's constitution.

The amendments that are expected to pass will abolish presidential term limits, allowing President Hugo Chavez to be re-elected indefinitely, and give Chavez's government total control over Venezuela's Central Bank, many private schools and other institutions. They also will allow him the power to handpick vice presidents without voter consent.

Protesters in Caracas and other cities already have clashed with police in the lead-up to the Dec. 2 referendum, driving the bolivar, Venezuela's currency, to a black-market low of 6,800 to the dollar.

Venezuela's 12,000 or so Jews mostly are unhappy with where the oil-rich country is heading, but there seems little they can do about it except leave.

"There's a crisis here, though I wouldn't say it's a special crisis for the Jewish community," said Rabbi Pynchas Brener of La Union Israelita, a large Orthodox synagogue in Caracas. "I think it's similar to what all people from the same socioeconomic situation are facing."

Without criticizing Chavez by name, Brener noted an increase within the last year of "anti-Semitic expressions by people who are close to the government," as well as on state-owned radio and TV stations.

Yet Brener, who's been the chief Ashkenazi rabbi of Caracas since 1967, emphasized that the Jewish community doesn't get involved in politics.

"I don't think people can express what they want nowadays," he said, indicating phone lines are being tapped. "Of course people are cautious. We're very concerned with what's going on. We live here."

The increasingly grim political situation, the nation's economic instability and Chavez's warm embrace of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad have driven many Venezuelan Jews to consider their options abroad.

"A lot of people are leaving the country, but not only because they're Jewish," said Robert Bottome, publisher of VenEconomy Weekly in Caracas and an outspoken critic of the Chávez government. "It's because they feel the country is going down the drain. "The opportunities to invest and grow have been severely curtailed by the Chavez regime. And if Chavez aligns himself with Iran, it's normal that Jews would start worrying about his intentions. I don't blame them for being nervous."

"Just about everyone you meet who's middle or upper class is thinking of other options," said Will Recant, the assistant executive vice president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which sent a top-level delegation to Caracas two weeks ago to assess the situation. "Will they stay, and if so, for how long? If not, where will they go? Israel is always the first option, and the Jewish Agency is working with them on this."

Nearly a third of the community has left the country over the past three years, and the number of Jews in Venezuela has dropped to 12,000 from about 17,000 in 2004, Recant said.

Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez

Many have gone to Israel or the United States. Some have emigrated to Costa Rica, Panama and other Spanish-speaking countries.

"The JDC is not involved at all with those who are leaving," Recant said. "We're mostly involved with the community that's there, and how to keep it viable for those who remain, as well as helping with any kind of emergency plans."

Jewish community officials say the situation is volatile.

That's partly why community members were so upset when Israeli Knesset member Effi Eitam declared two weeks ago after a visit to Caracas that Israel should help Venezuelan Jews make aliyah immediately.

"They're asking for help," Eitam told Israel's daily Ma'ariv upon returning from his visit. "The Jews there are confused and frightened, and very much want Israeli help to organize. Some already have evacuated their family members to other places, such as Miami or Panama. Every family has an emergency evacuation plan."

Nearly a third of the Jewish community has left the country over the past three years.

With ties between Israel and Venezuela already strained, one Washington-based official with close ties to the Venezuelan Jewish community said Eitam's comments were irresponsible and unhelpful, casting the country's Jews as disloyal to Venezuela.

"Anti-Semitism is being expressed in the official media, and the Jews — along with many other Venezuelans — fear the changes the government might impose over the next few months," said the official, who asked not to be identified. "But it's up to the community and individual Jews to decide if they want to stay in Venezuela or leave. I don't think going into the panic mode helps in any way."

In August 2006, the Venezuelan government downgraded its relations with Israel in the wake of Israel's war with Hezbollah. Chavez recalled his ambassador from Tel Aviv after criticizing Israel for employing "Hitler's methods" against Lebanese civilians.

Likewise, Israel's envoy in Caracas, Shlomo Cohen, was recalled by Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, but returned a few months later.

"It's a very delicate situation," the Washington-based official said, "and the Jewish community continues to be concerned." ■

Eying falling dollar, Jewish groups forced to adjust overseas spending

By Jacob Berkman

NEW YORK (JTA)—While economists fret over how the falling U.S. dollar will affect global markets, Jewish charities that rely heavily on U.S. fund raising to support programs outside the United States are facing serious budget crunches.

The dollar has been on a slow decline against the euro since January 2003, when the two currencies were basically even.

Last month marked an all-time low, as the dollar traded at $1.4572 against the euro — a decline of more than 11 percent since the start of the year.

The dollar also has fallen sharply against the shekel, to 3.93 shekels per dollar from 4.30 in January.

"Ultimately we provide less service if the dollar doesn't go as far…. People are getting hurt."

With the credit crisis, housing recession and high U.S. deficit having sent the dollar into a tailspin in 2007, Jewish community professionals in charge of overseas nonprofits are facing major problems paying for their programs.

The dollar's weakness already has hit groups like the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Israel, the two overseas arms of the North American Jewish federation system, particularly hard.

The JDC allocates some $360 million annually in 66 countries; 90 percent of the funding comes from U.S. donors. While the budget number has stayed the same since January, its value has declined significantly. That has made the $70 million the JDC spends in Europe every year 10 percent less effective in 2007.

"Ultimately we provide less service if the dollar doesn't go as far," the JDC's chief financial officer, Eugene Phillips, told JTA. "People are getting hurt."

The impact has been most severe in the former Soviet Union, Phillips said. The cost of home care for the elderly, for example, has jumped to $2.43 per hour from $1.42 per hour a year ago.

Other charities are facing similar problems. George Ban, the executive vice president and CEO of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, which runs a network of Jewish schools in Eastern and Central Europe, said the shrinking dollar "creates a tension because you are a professional and you have to keep yourself within a budget frame."

For Ban, this means that while a teacher's salary of 500 euros cost him $500 in 2003, now he has to pay $700 per month for the same teacher, he said. That increase extends to every line item in his budget, from food to electricity to heat.

To cope with the loss of value, the foundation has cut all non-essential grants and reduced costs across the board. Camps Ban used to run out of high-end hotels are run now at cheaper facilities.

The American Jewish World Service, which provides some $12 million in grant funding to grass-roots organizations in 36 countries, is considering adding funds via stop-gap grants to groups whose original grants -- made in dollars — turned out to be insufficient to cover the costs of their programming, an AJWS spokesman said.

"In countries like India and Thailand, where the dollar has taken the biggest hit, it means that our partners have had to adjust how they are budgeting their resources in areas like staffing, project supplies and physical overhead," Joshua Berkman said.

In India, AJWS costs rose to $1.6 million this year from $1.2 million in 2006. In Thailand, they rose to $600,000 from $320,000.

The Jewish Agency, the quasi-governmental agency that runs welfare and education programs in Israel and abroad, is similarly at risk because 70 percent of its income is received in dollars while 80 percent of its expenses are paid out in shekels, chief financial officer Yaron Neudorfer said.

This poses extreme risk for the organization, since the dollar's decline against the shekel is continuing unabated.Currency value changes have opened up an $11 million budget gap, agency officials said.

Both the Jewish Agency and the JDC say they will need more money from the United Jewish Communities — the federation umbrella group that provides the two groups with the lion's share of their budgets — to close the gap.

Howard Rieger, the UJC's president and CEO, said he does not yet know how the UJC will respond to this need. He pointed out that in other years the dollar has gone up, generating savings.

For the short term, the JDC and the Jewish Agency, like other Jewish nonprofits active overseas, are trying to tackle the problem on their own.

The JDC has decided to keep a balanced budget, pressing their local service agencies to stretch their funds as far as possible until it can raise more money.

The Jewish Agency has been able to soften the blow of the declining dollar by hedging its financial exposure through currency insurance. After the shekel-dollar exchange rate became extremely volatile in 2006, the agency bought an option from an Israeli bank that allowed it to lock in a specific shekel-dollar rate, netting the agency some $1.5 million in savings for '06.

In 2007, the Jewish Agency again bought an option, locking in a 4.10 shekel-dollar exchange rate on $150 million.

Neudorfer says the Jewish Agency expects that move to save $2.2 million in '07, offsetting approximately 20 percent of the organization's losses stemming from the falling dollar. The exact amount will depend on where the exchange rate stands when the agency exercises its right to buy the shekels at the 4.10 exchange rate, which it has until February to do.

"We don't have to worry until February 2008," Neudorfer said.

Then, he said, the agency will have to figure out how to stem the budget shortfalls for '08. ■

Soviet activists who stayed behind helped build a new Jewish life

By Matt Siegel

MOSCOW (JTA) — When the Soviet government began issuing exit visas for Jews in 1987, hundreds of thousands of people trapped for decades reacted with understandable exuberance.

What came next was a tidal wave of aliyah, the largest since the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, and then the collapse of the USSR.

But for many Soviet Jews active in the struggle to throw off the yoke of Bolshevism, the question of emigration was more complicated. So0me had elderly relatives who couldn't make the trip or younger children they feared to uproot. Some simply couldn't abandon their community.

While most of the emphasis during this, the 40th anniversary of their struggle, is being placed on the plight of the refuseniks and the worldwide movement to free them, it was the Jews who stayed behind who became responsible for the transformation of Jewish life here in the world's third largest Diaspora community.

"I found myself in the position where most of my friends left and everyone gave me some kind of heritage," says Mikhail Chlenov, a major player in the emigration movement who ultimately chose not to leave.

Chlenov stayed, he says, "because I was really deeply involved in the building of this new community here, which I actually predicted in 1976."

He says he remained in Russia primarily because he had three young children at the time and was too involved in community activity to uproot them all.

His son Motya, now 37 and head of the Moscow office of the World Congress of Russian Jewry, was raised in the refusenik movement. Motya even attended what was referred to as "refusenik kindergarten" at a country house outside of Moscow.

A community leader and activist, Motya Chlenov's heavy involvement in community building was clearly shaped by his childhood experiences.

"One of my first memories from my life was a large table with lots of Jewish kids sitting around," he recalls. "The adult people were schmoozing about things, about people who got arrested, people who got refused, who got a visa, but I wasn't participating in that."

Naomi Zubkova, a journalist and translator who had longed to immigrate to Israel along with her brother but stayed to take care of her parents, describes her experience as very common.

"I wanted to go, I had friends in Israel from summers. I wanted to go then and I thought I'd find my place there," she says. "But I couldn't go."

While Zubkova seems satisfied with the development of Jewish life, she laments the current state of Russian politics. She describes the lack of press freedoms and increasing state control of the media with barely contained disgust.

Many of those who stayed behind to build the secular organs of communal life fit a similar description: strong-willed intellectuals with Zionist proclivities.

Josef Zissels, 61, a native of Chernovtzy, Ukraine, fits that bill as well as anyone.

"I'm a traditional/Masorti Jew and Zionist in a wider meaning of the word," he says. "The optimal formula is strong Israel and strong Diaspora."

He was a member of the human rights movement in Ukraine and the Soviet-era Jewish resistance. Imprisoned twice for his work, Zissels spent six years as a political prisoner in the Soviet Gulag. But when the time came to leave Zissels, who spent decades fighting for the rights of Jews to emigrate from his native Ukraine, chose to stay.

Ironically his father has wanted to immigrate to Israel and Zissels now has many relatives there. Still he says he is fully satisfied with his life and activities in Ukraine in spite of a recent spike of xenophobia and anti-Semitic attacks, and he has no plans to leave.

Many of those who stayed behind to build the secular organs of communal life were strong-willed intellectuals with Zionist proclivities.

Zissels leads the Association of Jewish Organizations and Communities of Ukraine, a nationwide umbrella group based in Kiev, and serves on the board of the European Jewish Congress.

Aware of his vital role within the community, Zissels sees his mission as developing the Jewish community of Ukraine, which he says "will become stable in a generation."

"We have to restructure ourselves because what we were doing more than 20 years ago is no longer suitable today," he says.

For many who stayed behind, who were raised in an environment of resistance and left to revive an indigenous Jewish culture decimated by 80 years of Soviet communism, the period brings bittersweet memories as marking the end of an era.

Motya Chlenov recalls fondly the cramped apartments full of friends on holidays and the annual street parties outside Moscow's Choral Synagogue on Simchat Torah, where thousands once gathered in defiance of the general ban on Jewish meetings.

"They all got their exit visas and they all left," he says with a touch of bitterness. "In 1992 I went to the Choral Synagogue for Simchat Torah and there was nobody there because they had all gone."

His father, who described himself as a "very secular Jew," seems ambivalent about developments since the fall of communism.

Mikhail Chlenov is clearly overjoyed at the outpouring of Jewish cultural life, but when the talk turns to the predominance of Orthodox Judaism in Russia today, much of which is imported from abroad, he grows slightly agitated.

"Well, I am a bit disappointed that the dominant religious pattern which is imposed on the Russian Jews and Russia is obscurantist," he says, "but I can certainly find positive traits in this development, too."

Zubkova's family has been directly affected by the ubiquity of the Orthodox. Despite coming from an extremely secular background, one of her sons, whom she described as a "deep and thoughtful person," has become fervently Orthodox.

"I see he's happy," she says pensively and deliberately. "I know he had very difficult times when he was discovering all those things for himself."

Her other son, a doctor in New York, remains fiercely secular. She calls his success a "present from the last 17 years."

In a twist that would have been difficult for men of his father's and Zissel's generation to imagine when they started out struggling for the rights of Soviet Jews 40 years ago, Motya Chlenov has decided to stay in Russia because of what it offers him that Israel or Europe, where he lived for three years, cannot.

"I see a lot of more opportunities here for me," he says. "Yes, this country is becoming less comfortable for living, not just because of the political reasons but because of traffic and expensive living." He says he knows both New York and London, and Moscow has "a lot of the same bad marks and less good marks."

Still, his decision is an outgrowth of much of the work done by his father's generation to make the environment here more welcoming not only for Jews but for all the citizens of the former Soviet Union.

Not everyone, even in his own family, agrees with Motya's assessment, however. His twin brother immigrated to the United States in 1997; his sister moved to Jerusalem the same year.

And while so much of the work here has been done by people like Mikhail Chlenov who stayed, some former refuseniks who left still remain active here, too. One example is Uli Kosharovski, an Israeli who was in Moscow recently as part of a delegation to the World Congress of Russian Jewry.

Asked if he had ever considered returning to live in his native Russia, Kosharovski's soft eyes grow large with incredulity.

"Oh no," he laughs, "never. Look, I didn't run from Russia. I just wanted to be Israeli." ■

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With new book, author tells story behind story of *Schindler's List*

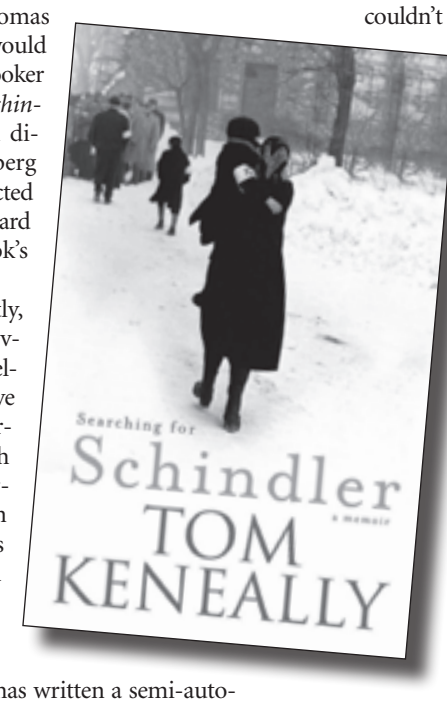
By Dan Godlberg

SYDNEY, Australia (JTA) – The name Leopold Pfefferberg was too much of a tongue twister for U.S. officials, so at Ellis Island in 1947 they changed it to Leopold Page.

The Nazis, however, had no such quandary. They had reduced him to a number: 69006.

To his family and friends, Pfefferberg was known simply as Poldek.

Without this Holocaust survivor's perseverance, author Thomas Keneally probably would not have won the Booker Prize in 1982 for *Schindler's List*, and film director Steven Spielberg would not have collected his first Academy Award in 1994 for the book's movie version.



More importantly, if not for Poldek's never-say-die spirit, Spielberg might never have established the Survivors of the Shoah Foundation, an archive of more than 52,000 testimonies in 32 languages from 56 countries.

Now, 25 years after writing *Schindler's List,* Keneally has written a semi-autobiographical sequel, *Searching for Schindler*, which tells the story of how a chance 1980 encounter with Poldek in his shop, the Handbag Studio in Beverly Hills, California, spawned this incredible chain of events that touched millions around the globe.

"Poldek was the spark plug and I was just one piston in the machine," Keneally, 70, says modestly, speaking with JTA at his home in Sydney's northern beaches. "I see myself as a mere catalyst. I was not the great heroic instigator."

Poldek was an irrepressible shopkeeper who for decades had been trying to foist his story of survival on any writer who entered his shop. When he encountered Keneally, whose book review he had just read in *Newsweek* magazine, Poldek became effusive.

"I know a wonderful story," Poldek told Keneally. "It is not a story for Jews but for everyone. It's the greatest story of humanity, man to man."

The Australian author was incredulous.

"I had never heard the words come from the lips of a soul so vivid, so picturesquely Eastern European, so endowed with baritone and basso subtleties of voice and inflection, so engorged with life, as Leopold Pfefferberg/Page," he writes in the opening chapter of his new book.

Poldek, No. 173 on Schindler's famous list, told Keneally how he and his wife, Misia, were saved by the "all-drinking, all-black-marketeering, all-screwing" Oskar Schindler, the German industrialist who risked his life to save 1,200 Jews at the close of World War II.

Keneally, who spent six years in a seminary studying to become a Catholic priest before deciding to become a writer, says two elements drew him to Poldek's story.

"With someone larger than life such as Poldek, I looked at his big honest face and thought, 'What is it about him that made the metropolitan Europeans believe he was a virus on European civilization and that he had to be obliterated?' " writes Keneally, who was born to Irish immigrants.

Keneally was equally fascinated by Schindler, whose heroic act of decency had its roots in the businessman's avarice and venality.

"Oskar was a scoundrel savior," the author wrote. "Writers love paradoxes — the fact you couldn't tell where his altruistic intentions ended and his opportunism began."

It took two years for Keneally to interview dozens of Schindler survivors — in the United States, Israel, Australia and Europe — and review thousands of documents before he could complete the book.

Another decade passed before Spielberg made the movie despite the overbearing efforts of Poldek, who frequently lobbied Spielberg's mother in her kosher restaurant and never gave up repeating his mantra, "An Oscar for Oskar!"

History proved Plodek right — seven times.

Schindler's List scooped the 1994 Academy Awards, and the two quirky characters who helped make that moment a reality were on hand: the unpretentious Australian author with the pirate-like guffaw and salt-and-pepper, moustache-less beard, and the Jewish kvetch from Krakow.

Poldek died in 2001.

For Keneally, the 25 years since *Schindler's List* was published have been life changing.

The author won international acclaim, met U.S. President Bill Clinton and was introduced to Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal on the night the movie premiered in Vienna. Police were so fearful of neo-Nazi violence that evening, they surrounded Spielberg's entourage with security personnel.

Keneally now posts a *mezuzah* at the entrance to his office.

"Part of being Jewish is trying to honor the people that are gone," he says. "I feel that I should stand in for the people who are gone, too, even though I'm a gentile."

Keneally also has sympathy for the Palestinians, saying they "were the ones chosen to pay the price for the great European crimes against Judaism."

The author's new book posthumously fulfills one of Keneally's promises to Plodek.

"There always has been a story behind the story," Keneally says. "When Poldek was alive I used to say, 'I'll write about you one day.' "

Searching for Schindler is the result. ■

Sweet treats from the frying pan, from sufganiyot to Viennese crepes

By Linda Morel

NEW YORK (JTA) — At the age of 14, having a great time dropping doughnuts into boiling oil despite the occasional spatter, little did I realize I was decades ahead of the curve.

In the 1960s, who knew that one day doughnuts, fritters and beignets would become trendy during Chanukah, giving latkes a run for their gelt?

In my Ashkenazi world, the feisty little potato pancake flecked with chopped onions was the centerpiece of Chanukah celebrations. My Jewish friends hailed from families who had emigrated from Central and Eastern Europe. Our holiday desserts consisted of brownies and rugelach, almond horns and miniature Danish. By the time the coffee was percolating, someone in the kitchen had already washed and put away the frying pans.

I was in my 40s with a 14-year-old daughter before I found out that Jews from the Middle East, North Africa and certain parts of Europe fry up a myriad of Chanukah pastries, which differ from country to country. Many of these crunchy delights are drizzled with sweet syrups and served for dessert.

As a lover of fried dough, I liked this idea before indulging in any of these sizzling pastries.

Perusing recipes, I soon realized you had to distinguish between cooking techniques: pastries that swell from yeast vs. the more crepe-like pancake, and batter that is deep fried vs. sauteed.

At Chanukah, sufganiyot are wildly popular in Israel and sold at virtually every market and bakery. Best consumed warm, the yeast-based balls of dough are deep fried and often contain jelly or custard that oozes from their portly centers.

While sufganiyot grabbed my attention in the '90s, more and more American Jews are making them now. I like sufganiyot in principle because they are a marriage of Ashkenazi and Sephardi cuisines.

Sufganiyot are similar to pfannkuchen, a jelly-filled doughnut that German Jews served at Chanukah during the '30s. German Zionists carried this holiday custom with them when they immigrated to Palestine.

Scholars claim that sufganiyot are reminiscent of a springy cookie known as sufganne, a fried dough eaten around the Mediterranean since the time of Judah Maccabee. Perhaps that's why these heavenly doughnuts were given the name sufganiyot in Hebrew, which comes from a Greek word meaning puffed and fried.

Yeast dough fritters called bimuelos are a Chanukah confection favored by Jews from Greece and Turkey. The word bimuelos derives from Spanish. Often drenched in honey syrup after emerging from the frying pan, bimuelos are also called loukomades by Greek Jews.

Sufganiyot are an offspring of loukomades, one of the oldest sweets known to mankind.

Throughout the Sephardi world, variations on the doughnut-fritter theme are riffed and repeated.

In her book *Classic Italian Jewish Cooking,* author Edda Servi Machlin reminisced about the Chanukah fritters called Frittelle di Chanuka that she ate in Tuscany during her childhood. Flavored with anise seeds and raisins, the yeasty dough is cut into diamonds, fried in a saucepan until golden and drizzled with warm honey.

Several years ago, Mathew Goodman in his Food Maven column in the Forward described Moroccan sfenj, airy light yeast doughnuts in the classic ring shape. After being dunked in seething oil, they are glazed with sugar syrup infused with cinnamon and orange. Chopped nuts are added occasionally to the batter, giving them a pleasing crunch.

In the *Jewish Holiday Cookbook*, Gloria Kaufer Greene explained that Jews from throughout the Middle East and North Africa swirl strings of dough into simmering oil, creating rosette shapes. This pastry is often called zlabia but goes by zelebi among Yemenite Israelis, and zangoola or zingzoola among Iraqis.

On the Ashkenazi side, I discovered some traditional but often overlooked fried pastries. Viennese layered crepes are an elegant spin on latkes that call for flour and vanilla rather than potatoes and onions. Similar to a layer cake, eight of these crepes — for the eight nights of Chanukah — are piled atop one another with a spiced applesauce filling between them.

Apple fritters are batter-coated apple slices that are submerged into a deep fryer until they turn a resplendent golden brown. While still warm they are dusted with confectioner's sugar.

Never eaten fried desserts before? Why not start this Chanukah?

I suggest dedicating one of the holiday's eight nights to some of these stunning desserts, perhaps forgoing latkes and other savory fried foods in favor of pastries crisped in oil.

Better still, throw a Sunday afternoon Chanukah party with a "just desserts" menu. Serve fried sweets along with favorite cookies and platters of fruit.

As Chanukah is a holiday celebrating the miracle of a one-day supply of oil that stretched for eight days, you can't find enough excuses to grab a bottle of cooking oil and fry, fry again.

The recipes below are by Linda Morel.

Apple Fritters (dairy)

Ingredients:
3 to 5 cups of flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon granulated sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 cup milk at room temperature
2 eggs at room temperature
3 Granny Smith (green) apples
3 cups corn oil
Confectioner's sugar for dusting

Preparation:
1. Sift flour until it yields 1 cup. Reserve remaining flour. Add salt, sugar, and baking powder to the cup of sifted flour and sift these 4 ingredients into a large mixing bowl.
2. Add milk and eggs to flour mixture and beat until well incorporated. Batter will be thick but smooth. Reserve.
3. With a vegetable peeler, remove apple skins. With a sharp knife, core the apples. Cut off the bottom of apples to achieve a flat surface. Cut apples horizontally into 1/2 inch slices, about 5 slices per apple. Each slice will be ring shaped with a hole in the center.
4. Pour oil into a saucepan several inches deep and heat it on medium-high flame. Oil should be 1-inch deep. Oil is sufficiently hot when a speck of batter dropped in oil browns immediately.
5. Meanwhile, place a cup of flour on a dinner plate. In batches of 2 or 3 apple rings, roll each ring in flour to cover every surface. Add more flour as needed.
6. Coat each ring in batter, letting excess batter drip back into bowl. With fingers, hold ring vertically over oil near its surface. Carefully ease bottom of ring into oil and let go. Cook no more than 2 to 3 rings at a time. Fry fritters for 2 to 3 minutes on a side, or until they turn a deep golden brown. Turn fritters with a slotted spatula. They will look like doughnuts.
7. Remove fritters with slotted spatula, letting excess oil drip into pan. Place on paper towels to drain. Move to a platter and sprinkle with confectioner's sugar. Serve immediately. Yield: approximately 15 fritters.

Viennese Layered Crepes (dairy)

Ingredients: ***Crepe Batter:***
6 eggs
1/4 cup melted sweet butter, plus 1/4 cup chilled butter, or more for frying
2 cups (commercially) whipped cottage cheese
1/2 cup flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons granulated sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
No-stick spray
Confectioner's sugar for dusting

Preparation:
In a medium-sized saucepan, mix together all filling ingredients. Over a medium-high flame, simmer ingredients for 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Carefully drain out excess liquid by straining applesauce in a fine sieve. Reserve.

Ingredients: ***Filling:***
4 cups applesauce
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
1/3 cup brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon lemon zest

Preparation:
1. Place eggs in a large bowl and beat until light and foamy. Add 1/4 cup melted butter, cottage cheese, flour, salt, sugar, and vanilla, incorporating well. Ladle the batter in equal parts into 8 small bowls.
2. In an 8-inch skillet, preferably stick resistant, melt 1 tablespoon of butter. Pour batter from 1 bowl into skillet, tipping it so batter spreads evenly. Fry until crepe is lightly browned. Flip over and brown bottom side. Move to a rimmed cake plate and spread a portion of applesauce over it.
3. Repeat with remaining batter. Pile crepes one atop the other with applesauce between each layer. End with a crepe, spreading no applesauce on top. Sprinkle sifted Confectioner's sugar over top crepe. Serve immediately and cut with a sharp knife into slices like a cake.

Yield: 8 slices

Hints For Making Yeast Dough for Bimuelos

Rising (proofing) yeast and dough require a warm room free of drafts. Dough rises best when it rests in peace, so avoid loud buzzing noises. To heat up a cool kitchen, keep oven at 350 degrees while dough rises.

Bimuelos (pareve)

Ingredients:
3/4 teaspoon granulated sugar
3/4 cup warm water
1 packet active dry yeast (not close to expiration date). Store in refrigerator and bring to room temperature before using.
5 to 6 cups corn oil, or more if needed
2 cups flour
1 egg at room temperature
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup honey
1 Tablespoon sugar
1/4 cup water
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preparation:
1. Put sugar in a small bowl. Pour 1/2 cup warm water over sugar. Sprinkle yeast over water. With a spoon warmed in hot water, gently stir mixture. Leave (proof) for 10 minutes. Mixture should bubble and increase in volume.
2. Meanwhile, oil the inside of a large mixing bowl with 1 tablespoon of oil. Place flour in bowl and make a well in center of flour. Inside of well, place 1/2 cup corn oil, egg, salt, and yeast mixture when ready. With a wooden spoon, mix ingredients together until dough sticks together and has a shiny consistency. With hands, form dough into a rounded mound. Cover bowl tightly with plastic wrap. Let rise in a warm room for 1 hour.
3. Meanwhile, in a small pot make Honey Syrup by combining honey, sugar, 1/4 cup warm water, and cinnamon. On medium flame, stir ingredients constantly so sugar dissolves completely, about 5 minutes. Transfer Honey Syrup to an attractive bowl and reserve. It will thicken at room temperature.
4. Stir the dough. It will deflate. Cover and let rise for 30 minutes.
5. In a deep pot, pour remaining oil so that it is 2 inches deep. (The smaller the diameter of the pot, the less oil you will need but the less Bimuelos you can make at a time.)
6. Dunk the bowls of 2 tableware teaspoons in hot oil. Pick up a spoonful of dough with first teaspoon and push dough into the oil with the second teaspoon. When bottom side of dough browns, in about 2 minutes, flip it over with a slotted, long-handled spoon. Continue frying until both sides are brown. You may put several Bimuelos in the pot at a time, depending on its size. Don't overcrowd them.
7. Remove Bimuelos one at a time with the slotted spoon. Drain on paper towels. Wait until they cool to warm. Tastes best when served immediately. Dip in honey syrup.

Yield: About 30 Bimuelos.

Mainstay of the local music scene, Dick Siegel, performs at the Ark on January 12

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

Dick Siegel has been a mainstay of the local music scene for over thirty years, both as a solo performer and founding member of several influential and well-loved bands, such as the Ministers of Melody and Tracy Lee and the Leonards. He's won a number of Detroit Music Awards and been voted into the Detroit Music Hall of Fame, but his music has received wider recognition as well. He has appeared in many of North America's finest folk venues and festivals, has received the prestigious Kerrville Music Festival's New Folk Award, and has been featured on National Public Radio.

There are so many musical genres and influences represented in Siegel's songs that you can only call him a folk musician if you define folk music the way the great Louis Armstrong did; "All music is folk music. I ain't never heard no horse sing a song." You can hear Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan in Siegel's voice and song writing—but also Chicago blues, old-time country, rockabilly, gospel, jazz and just about any other American musical style.

His song topics cover an equally wide range. He's a master of the talking blues, WPM (words per minute) style of lyric writing, often with laugh-out-loud lines and memorable hooks, such as "What Would Brando Do?" He's written satirical, sharp-tongued social commentary like, "Fallout Shelter Blues," and "Fighting for King George," which got a standing ovation—in the middle of a set—at a recent Ark show. And there is his softer side. "Breakfast at Angelo's," is both love song and ode to a favorite Ann Arbor eatery; "The Waitress" is a compassionate, comic, and keenly observed portrait; and the heart warming, "Pearl," was inspired by his young daughter.

I talked with Dick Siegel recently about his life and his music.

WJN: Was there a lot of music in your family?

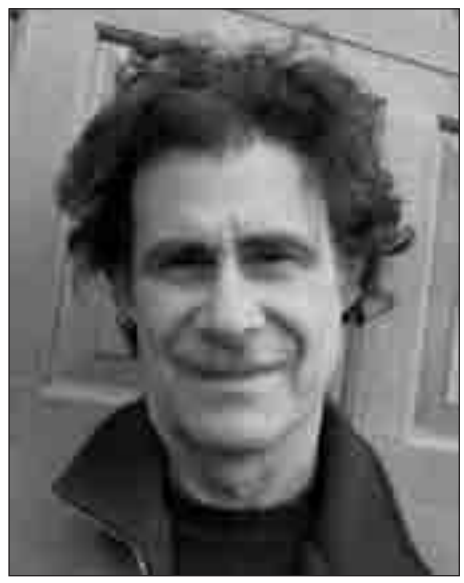
Siegel: My dad was a musician, started very young, playing saxophone and violin. He played saxophone in a dance band on the Queen Mary one summer in the '30's. He was also a pretty serious violinist. He was a doctor, but playing violin was very important to him. He played with community orchestras, string quartets. There was always music in the house.

WJN: Did your dad ever consider making music his career?

Siegel: My father was the oldest son of immigrant parents. He was born here, but his parents emigrated from Russia. His dad owned a candy store in Nutley, New Jersey. They lived in the back of the store. Modest beginnings. In high school my father won a Bausch and Lomb science award, very serious about science, and I think very early on he knew he wanted to be a physician.

WJN: What about you? Did you know all along you wanted to play music?

Siegel: No, actually. I always loved the popular music that was on the radio. I started taking piano lessons. I was always taking lessons on one instrument or the other, but I don't think I ever really seriously thought about playing an instrument. I loved the music that I was listening to, but I didn't have musical heroes. I would play trumpet for a while, guitar for a while, saxophone, but I didn't enjoy the lesson aspect of it. It wasn't until I saw Michael Olatunji on television that I suddenly was... ah, drums. He was a Nigerian drummer, had an album called "Drums of Passion." It was amazing music to me. I got a drum set, started teaching myself to play drums and then gradually put together a rock 'n roll band in high school. Something about the drums spoke to me. I got very seriously into it, and into teaching myself, and I think for me that was sort of the way I was destined to go, being self-taught.



Dick Siegel

WJN: Did you listen to recordings and try to imitate what you heard, or were you mostly listening to what was in your head and trying to make those sounds on the drums?

Siegel: No. I think I listened to recorded music, and our band played English Invasion music mostly. I was listening to the drummers in those bands. I listened to the Beach Boys drummer, and the Wipeout drum solo, all these things really appealed to me.

WJN: You grew up in New Jersey but came to college in Ann Arbor. Why the U-M?

Siegel: I had some other choices that were good schools. But I came out here to visit and something appealed to me about the kind of all-American quality it seemed to have. Big football team, big campus, beautiful little town. I could have gone to Chicago, or Brandeis, but they felt small, or urban. I wanted something more diverse.

WJN: What did you study in school?

Siegel: There was always this sense of predestination, of going to medical school, but it was just this vague feeling, like this is what I am supposed to do, maybe more than what I wanted to do. Even though it was never pushed on me. But I don't think in my heart that's what I really wanted to do. So I became an English major, though I did take pre-med courses, and got introduced to, among other things, poetry. When I discovered poetry in my sophomore year, it was a revelation to me. Suddenly words came alive. I started reading Yeats and T.S. Elliot and other poets and I started writing poetry.

Also in college I got in with a bunch of guys. We just liked to sing, probably sang a bunch of old Dylan songs. When I was young I had taken guitar lessons. It was one of the instruments I passed through. There was a guy who taught jazz guitar, so I did that for awhile, but…

WJN: It didn't stick?

Siegel: I learned how to play "Little Brown Jug." (Demonstrates laughingly) I hated it. (More laughter) When I was drumming with my rock 'n roll band in high school, I started to sing. I was someone who naturally really wanted to sing. When I got to college, I realized that if you wanted to sing, playing the guitar was the way to go, and so we'd get together and sing and play songs and I just started getting back into the guitar. I sold my drum set and with the money I bought a guitar.

WJN: Is that when you started writing songs?

Siegel: No, but I was writing poetry. And then, I got out of college and I took a trip out West in my VW minibus. And on the way back, this was '71 I guess, I just started making up a song. It was something that just happened in my mind. I got back to Ann Arbor and I'd already been going to the Ark for their hoot nights, and I played this song I'd written and people really liked it, and I really liked it. It was like I suddenly discovered that this was something that I could do, where music and poetry came together. It was a great joy. When I perform now I do almost exclusively original music. I realized early on that that's what I do best, and it was most important for me to do.

WJN: You have a young daughter now.

Siegel: Arden. She's nine and a half. Having a daughter, having a child, gave me a whole realm of experience that I never had before, a whole dimension of living that if you don't have, you just don't even access those feelings. For me, it's this feeling of surrendering to giving and caring about this person, where you will do anything you can for them. You put all your emotions, all your needs, for a certain period of time, away, and you just attend to their needs. And it's a really wonderful feeling to do that, being generous, the rewards of being emotionally generous. Part of the fulfillment of having a child, and the sense of purpose that it gives you… I think I was only relying on music before that for that sense of purpose.

WJN: Talk more about that sense of purpose.

Siegel: What intrigues me, when I think about my route, is this need to create things. When I was a kid I spent a lot of time making things, putting things together, and building things. For a while, Picasso was my hero. We had this book, black and white photos of Picasso doing his thing. There was something about that, to be that creative, that really appealed to me. And I think that's maybe what it was for me, and what it still is, to try to make sense of things. And to do something of value.

My dad was raised in a pretty religious family. They went to shul regularly. My mother was not raised religiously, but her parents were also Jews from Russia. We belonged to a reform synagogue. It was important to my dad that I got bar mitzvahed. So I went to Hebrew School and got bar mitzvahed. But for me… my dad grew up in this corner candy store in Nutley, New Jersey. Mostly blue-collar neighborhood. It had a Jewish population, but it was not huge. His store was the meeting place of a lot of different kinds of people, Polish people, Italian people, all the different ethnicities that were in that part of New Jersey. So he was raised with a sense of sort of belonging to the larger community of the world.

There was one thing that I felt growing up, that there was never this sense that seemed to exist in some other families, of setting yourself off; that you were friends with only Jewish people, that somehow you thought of yourself as better than other people, or you drew a line, you know, like 'goy.' That word was never spoken in my house. It was a bad word. I only knew it as a pejorative word. Or "shiksa." I knew those words, but they were never used in my family.

My early friends were mostly Jewish because of the neighborhood. By the time I was in high school, most of my friends weren't Jewish. I didn't reject someone because they were Jewish, or was interested in them for that reason. There was no line for me.

I grew to detest religion; I grew to detest the divisions that religion caused. It only seemed to me to be primitive, archaic, superstitious, excluding. But, at the same time, when I came to school here, I wound up joining a Jewish fraternity and one reason I think was there was this kind of cultural thing of being Jewish, where you find a lot of commonality with people who were raised the way you were, the same values, the same food, the same emotional language.

I credit my particular view of the world with being raised Jewish and the kind of humanistic values, at least my family's version, that were given to me; being compassionate, empathetic, progressive, artistic, sensitive. These were very important in my family.

There is something about being an outsider, something that I pretty distinctly felt. When I've traveled in the Mediterranean, in Italy, Greece, Turkey, there was a sense of belonging and of being similar. I felt more akin to those populations than I do to the general population of this country. Growing up with that sense of being kind of outside, looking, observing, I think that's one of the reasons that I write.

And, there is another function of that too, I think. There is a need, my need, if you are on the outside, to get inside, to be involved, because being on the outside is not very comfortable. It's isolating. So to get back in, to effect society, to have that kind of interaction, for me, writing songs is the way. I can go from my view and my observations of my own situation and come back in and, if I've done it well, I can have interaction and understanding with my community. Bringing something to them from the outside that is meaningful. ■

Dick Siegel will be playing at the Ark on Saturday, January 12, 2008. For ticket information, call The Ark at 761-1800.

Event shows how dance and movement enhance understanding of Torah and Shabbat

Terri Ginsburg, special to the WJN

Julie Gayer, artistic director of Avodah Dance Company in New York, gave a workshop for 60 area Jewish educators and explored movement with students in Jewish schools in Ann Arbor on November 1. The Jewish Educators Council invited

Julie Gayer

Gayer to share her creative ideas and high energy with the community as part of the annual Scholar-in-Residence program, which is funded by Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County.

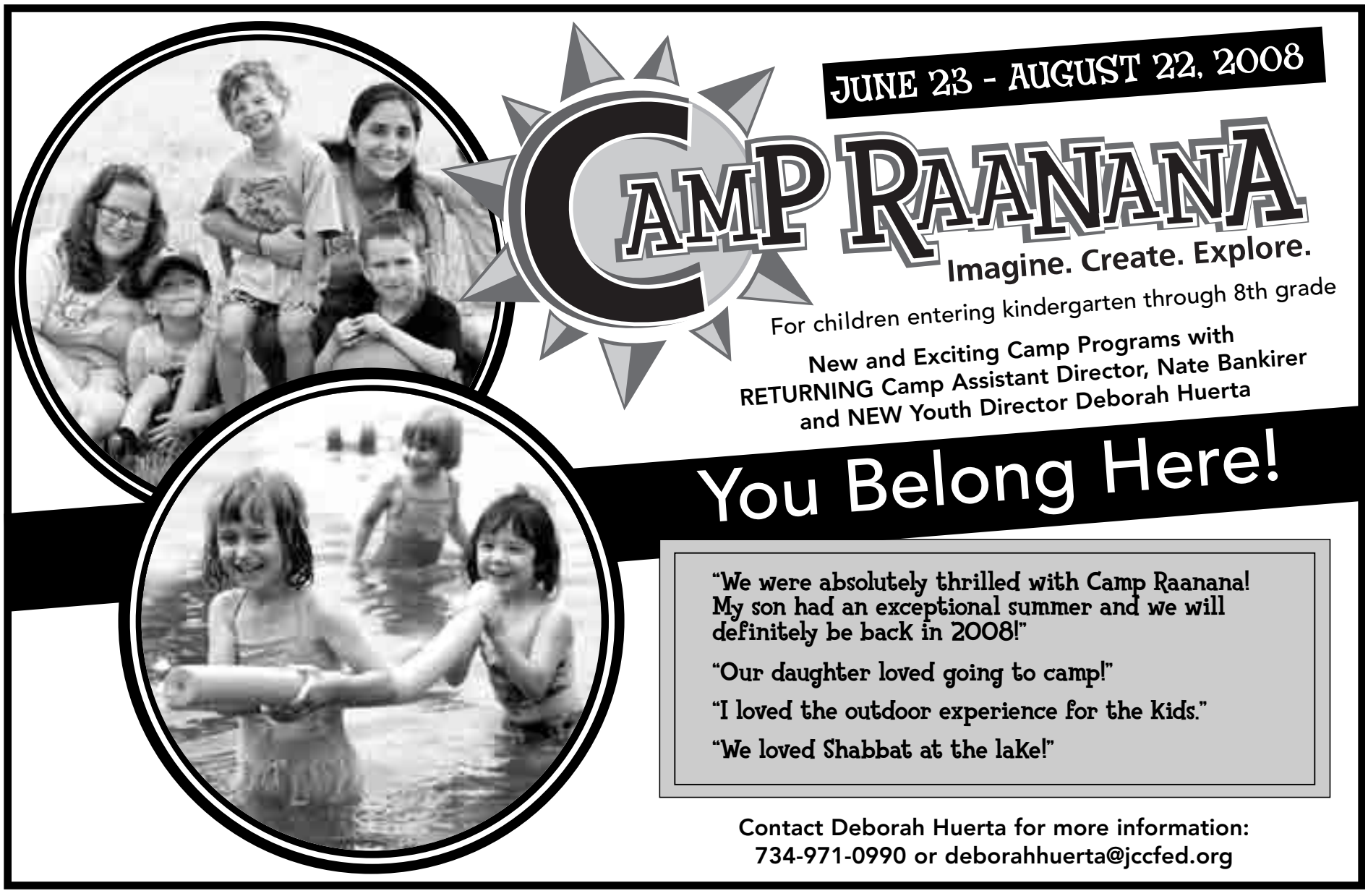
Gaynor worked with students from Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, the Early Childhood Center, Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, and Jewish Cultural School. On Saturday evening, November 3, Gaynor led a family Havdalah Pajama Party at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County attended by about 50 people.

The Jewish Educators Council is a group of the leaders of various local Jewish educational institutions, including TBE, BIC, ECC, JCS, HDS, AARH, and Keshet. The group meets monthly to develop two professional development workshops for Jewish Educators each year. The group brings in a Scholar in Residence (for example Julie Gayer, Danny Siegel, Joel Grishaver) who gives a teacher workshop, leads a program which is open to the community, and then spends time working with the students at all of the institutions.

The Jewish Educators Council also organizes an annual conference in which teachers attend dinner and a variety of workshop options led by educators from the Ann Arbor or Detroit Metro area. These workshops will be held on January 16, 2008 and will feature the following offerings: "Creative Methods for Teaching Bible Stories to Young children," with Karen Shill; "Teaching Prayer," with Aviva Panush; "Dialogue on Dialogue: Engaging Jewish Teens in Discussion," with Abe Morrison and Marjorie Rhodes; and "Active Learning in the Jewish Environment," with Noreen DeYoung and Peretz Hirshbein.

Jewish educators enjoyed Gayner's dance workshop

In addition, the Jewish Educators Council provides funding to help teachers attend CAJE (Conference for Alternatives in Jewish Education). The Jewish Educator's Council is funded through the generosity of the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County. ■



December 2007

Saturday 1

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 2

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Chanukah Choopla: BIC Women's League. Chanukah supplies, presents, latke and hot dog lunch.

Tzedek Helps at the JFS Chanukah Program: EMU Hillel. Brighten the holiday for local families and Jewish seniors. Meet at EMU Hillel. 11 a.m.–2 p.m. For information, contact Stacey.

"Bris, Baptisim, Bat Mitzvah: Navigating Lifecycle Events in the Interfaith Family:" TBE and JCC. 11:30 a.m. at the JCC. For information, contact Devon Fitzig at dfitzig@templebethemeth.org or call 665-4744.

Chanukah Gift Bag Making: JFS. Prepare gift bags for 300 local older adults, or volunteer to deliver gifts. Fun and fulfilling mitzvah project. Pizza, drinks and snacks provided. 9 a.m.–noon at the JCC with delivery afterward. For information, contact Deborah Renner, JFS Volunteer Coordinator at 769-0209.

Chanukah Wonderland: Chabad: Chanukah store in heart of downtown where a whole line of supplies will be available along with activities for children and a Chanukah party. 500 Liberty Street. *Through 12/12.*

Concert: JCC. Chaverim B'Shirim will present a concert titled *Exploring "Who is Jewish?"* Music will range from Lalo Schifrin to Bob Dylan, Paul Simon and a variety of different artists. There will be artists and songs that are familiar and others that will be a surprise. $5 donation requested. Refreshments will be served. 3 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 3

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; New American Club: an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Clay Workshop: JCC-Seniors. Professional sculptor, Barbara Carson will run a beginner's workshop on how to work with clay. Learn how to construct a face with simple tools. Clay will be provided. Bring work clothing. 1–4 p.m.

Havdalah Pajama Dance Party: JCC–Early Childhood Center. Pizza dinner and and evening of creative movement and dance Midrash with Julie Gayer, creative director of Avodah Dance Company, a modern dance company rooted in Jewish tradition. For families with children pre-school through 2nd grade. $10/family. 6 p.m. For information, contact Noreen DeYoung at 971-0990 or ndeyoung@umich.edu.

Open House: Hebrew Day School. For prospective parents. 7 p.m. in HDS Kindergarten (Gan) classroom. For more information or to RSVP, contact Shari Shifrin at 971-4633 office@hdsaa.org.

Talmud Study: BIC. Study of the Tractate Sotah led by Rabbi Dobrusin. Drop-ins welcome. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 4

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Mah Jongg, noon. Knit-n-Kvetch, 1–2:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Chanukah Celebration: EMU Hillel. 7:30 p.m. in EMU Student Center Ballroom B. Contact Danielle for information.

ZiG Class: UM Hillel. "The 'Real' Story of Chanukah:" To register for ZiG classes, email Chris Stauffer at cstauff@umich.edu. If you have questions, please email Rabbi Nathan Martin at rabbinm@umich.edu, or call Hillel at 769-0500.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. *The Land and the Spirit* examines the central role the Holy Land plays in the Jews' mission throughout history. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussion in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at U-M Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 5

Matinee Musicale: JCC-Seniors. Season Finale with A2SO Music Director Arie Lipsky, Concertmaster Aarons Berfossky and Acting Associate Concertmaster Kathryn Votapek. $7 at the door. Coffee, cake and conversation at 1:30 p.m.; Concert at 2 p.m. Sponsored by Rosebud Foundation, Charles and Rita Gelman, J.F. Ervin Foundation and MCACA. At the JCC. For information, call Laurie Wechter at 769-0990.

Meditation and Group Discussion: TBE. 7:30 p.m. in TBE Chapel.

Chanukah Party: UM Hillel GAP. For Graduate Students and Professionals. Jewish Trivia from 8:30-10 p.m. Party from 10 p.m.–1 a.m. Conor O'Neils.

Thursday 6

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; New American Club-an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m.; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Intergenerational Chanukah Celebration: JCC-Early Childhood Center. Children from the Early Childhood Center and seniors from the SPICE of Life program at the JCC will celebrate Chanukah together. Children will be involved with Chanukah crafts, games and cooking. Children from the three- and four-year-old classrooms will act out the story of Chanukah for the seniors and everyone will sing favorite songs. Latke lunch and other treats follows program. Parents and grandparents invited to attend. 11 a.m. at the JCC.

Yiddish Open House: JCC Seniors. Learn about Yiddish in English and enjoy an entertaining series of presentations featuring all kinds of Yiddish culture. For today's program, Yiddish Translator, Aliza Shevrin will speak on three soon-to-be published translations of Shalom Aleichem.1 p.m. at the JCC.

Dreidel Spinning: UM Hillel. Help Michigan break a Guinness World Record for number of dreidels spun at one time. UM Ingalls Mall near Bell Tower. 7p.m.

Lecture: UM Hillel. Norm Gressel, former Executive Director of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies and founder and CEO of Assif-Strategies Ltd., will speak about business sustainability. 8:30 p.m. at the UM Michigan League.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 7

"Cuppa Jo and the Five Books of Mo:" UM Hillel. 3 p.m. at Amer's on Church Street.

Tot Chanukah and Latke Dinner: TBE. $10/adults; $7/children under 12. 6 p.m.

Stress-less Shabbat: EMU Hillel. 6 p.m. RSVP to Audrey by 12/5.

Family Chanukah Service: TBE. Bring your menorah and candles. 7:30 p.m.

Concert Outing: JFS. Outing to recital for older adults to hear the music of Uriel Tsacher. 8 p.m. at Britton Recital Hall. Transportation is $6 for roundtrip fare on the JFS CareVan, if needed. For more information, contact Nina Dmitrieva at nina@jfsannorbor.org of call 769-0209.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 8

Latke Hop: JCC. Family Chanukah celebration sponsored by the Bernard L. Maas Foundation. Games and crafts, havdalah, dinner and live music and dancing with Jake Kander and Rob Gutman. $10/adult members; $5/child members over two; $12/adult non-members; $6/children over two. 6–9 p.m. For reservations, call 971-0990.

Tot Shabbat Service: BIC. For tots 0–5 years old and their parents followed by tot Kiddush. 11 a.m.

Chanukah Dinner Party: TBE Renaissance Group. Potluck dinner party. 7:30 p.m. at Chapel Hill Clubhouse. RSVP to Miriam Shaw at mbs1115@yahoo.com or 996-8106 by 12/1.

Chanukah Party: TBE TNT: Twenties and Thirties Group party. Bring a white elephant gift and your menorah. $5 suggested donation. 8 p.m. at Jennie Allen's. RSVP to Devon Fitzig at dfitzig@templebethemeth.org.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

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Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Chanukah Party: BIC. Chalutzim and Kadima party. Noon.

Claire and Isadore Bernstein Award Event Honoring Phyllis and David Herzig: JFS and JCC. Join in honoring the contributions of Phyllis and David Herzig to the Ann Arbor community and the clients of JFS. JFS has partnered with the University Musical Society to offer a special reception and concert package that includes tickets to "A Solstice Celebration: The Festival of Lights," with Leo Kottke and the Turtle Island String Quartet. $54/Concert and Reception; $18/Reception only. Awards and Reception at 2 p.m.; Concert at 4 p.m. U-M Rackham Graduate Building. For reservations or information, contact Carol Lessure at 769-0209 or email carol@jfsannarbororg.

Chanukah Party: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. Latke making, menorah lighting, dreidel spinning, crafts and schmoozing for all ages. $10/suggested donation per family (non-member). 4–7 p.m. at the JCC. For information, contact info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705.

Women's Rosh Chodesh: TBE. 6:30 p.m.

Chanukah Party: Chabad. For adults and children. 7-9 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 10

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Musical Monday: JFS and JCC Seniors. "We Celebrate Chanukah," a special luncheon for older adults with singer and songwriter Laurie White playing folk music. 1 p.m. at the JCC.

"The December Dilemma:" EMU Hillel. Presented by Under One Roof. Explore how each faith deals with the December holidays in North America. 7 p.m. at EMU Student Center Kiva Room. RSVP to Gal at shortstuff853@sbcglogal.net

Talmud Study: BIC. Study of the Tractate Sotah led by Rabbi Dobrusin. Drop-ins welcome. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 11

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Mah Jongg, noon. Knit-n-Kvetch, 1–2:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Tot Chanukah Party and Dinner: BIC. For parent and children through kindergarten. 5:30 p.m.

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Calendar

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. *The Land and the Spirit* examines the central role the Holy Land plays in the Jews' mission throughout history. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussion in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at U-M Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 12

Men's Torah Study: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Meditation and Group Discussion: TBE. 7:30 p.m. in TBE Chapel.

Thursday 13

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; New American Club-an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m.; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Local Jewish History: JCC Seniors. Kelsey Museum and local Jewish history archivist, Carol Finerman will share historical information and interview records of the local Jewish community and bring a "finding aid." 1 p.m. at the JCC.

"When a Loved One is Hospitalized: Essential Information for Caregivers of Older Adults:" JFS. Learn about caregiver advocacy during hospitalization from Susan Weinberg, LMSW, advocate, and corporate trainer and during home recuperation from Michelle Klein, Physician Service Coordinator for DRS, a Housecall Physician Service. Sponsored by the Bernard L. Maas Foundation and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. Pizza dinner included. No charge. 6-7:30 p.m. at the JCC. For information or to register, contact Abbie at 769-0209.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 14

Weekly Yiddish-Speaking and Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the home of Ray Juni. Call 761-2765 or 971-0990. 1:30–3 p.m.

"Cuppa Jo and the Five Books of Mo:" UM Hillel. 3 p.m. at Amer's on Church Street.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 15

Sweatshirt Shabbat Service: BIC. Service followed by annual Cholent Kiddush. Wear your favorite university, school, camp or travel sweatshirt and be ready to eat at the cholent luncheon following. 9:30 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Dance: TBE AARTY. $5/person. Ann Arbor Jewish Youth are invited to attend. 7 p.m.

Shabbat services*: See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 16

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday*.

Monday 17

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; New American Club: an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Film: JCC Seniors: Showing of *Hester Street,* a film about early Jewish immigrants in NYC. 1–2:30 p.m.

Talmud Study: BIC. Study of the Tractate Sotah led by Rabbi Dobrusin. Drop-ins welcome. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 18

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Mah Jongg, noon. Knit-n-Kvetch, 1–2:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Meditation and Group Discussion: TBE. 1 p.m.

Movie Tuesday: TBE. Showing of *Portrait of the Artist: Marc Chagall,* an important film that was completed shortly before Chagall's death and that is the only film made about the great artist during his lifetime. 1–3 p.m.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. *The Land and the Spirit* examines the central role the Holy Land plays in the Jews' mission throughout history. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 19

Thursday 20

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; New American Club-an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m.; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Rabbi Aharon Goldstein will present "The Destruction and Rebuilding of Jewish Temples in Jerusalem." 1 p.m.

Grandparent University: JCC-Seniors. Guest speaker Alicia Tisdale, PhD, presents "Meaningful Gift Giving (and Preventing Affluenza)." 1–3 p.m. at the JCC. For information, contact Laurie Wechter at 971-0990.

Music Festival: HDS. 7 p.m. at Temple Beth Emeth.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 21

Weekly Yiddish-Speaking and Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the home of Ray Juni. Call 761-2765 or 971-0990. 1:30–3 p.m.

"Cuppa Jo and the Five Books of Mo:" UM Hillel. 3 p.m. at Amer's on Church Street.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 22

Tot Shabbat Service: BIC. For tots 0–5 years old and their parents followed by tot Kiddush. 11 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 23

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday*.

Monday 24

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; New American Club: an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Writing Group: JCC Seniors. This is a good time to look back and to look forward and to put your reflections on paper. 1–2 p.m.

Dinner: BIC. Dinner at Chia Shiang Restaurant. 6 p.m. Call 769-1651 to reserve a spot.

Xmas Eve Dinner: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Haruvah. This year's annual dinner outing will be to Shalimar Indian Restaurant on Main Street in downtown Ann Arbor for a vegetarian buffet. RSVP by 12/21 to info@recon.org.

Rotating Shelter: BIC. Rotating shelter for the homeless begins at Beth Israel through 1/7. Volunteers needed.

Tuesday 25

"Hello Dolly" Film: TBE. Film showing sponsored by TBE at the Michigan Theater. Doors open at 10 a.m., film at 10:30 a.m. Concessions open for breakfast and snacks. Tickets are $5 in advance at TBE office and $6 at the door. Open to the community. For information or tickets, call 665-4744.

Motor Meals Delivery: JFS. Help deliver meals to area seniors on behalf of Motor Meals of Ann Arbor. JFS volunteers annually assume the Christmas day deliveries so that regular employees and volunteers can spend the holiday with their families. Contact Deborah Renner, JFS Volunteer Coordinator, at 769-0209 if you are interested in reserving a spot for this popular volunteer opportunity.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. *The Land and the Spirit* examines the central role the Holy Land plays in the Jews' mission throughout history. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 26

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth Department. Spend the day at the Castaway Café, the largest indoor play structure in Michigan. Towering over 25 feet high, and spanning over 3,000 square feet, it includes four giant slides, auto return zip lines, suspension bridges and much more. Bring a nut free, dairy lunch. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. $32/JCC members; $30/additional siblings. $8/extended care from 4–6 p.m. For information or to register, contact Leslie Bash at 971-0990 or lesliebash@jccfed.org.

Thursday 27

Winter Fun Break Days: JCC Youth Department. Visit the Detroit Science Center, packed with thousands of feet of hands-on educational exhibits geared to keep young minds active and engaged. After touring the center, enjoy a movie on the giant IMAX movie screen. Bring a nut free, dairy lunch. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. $32/JCC members; $30/additional siblings. $8/aftercare from 4–6 p.m. For information or to register, contact Leslie Bash at 971-0990 or lesliebash@jccfed.org.

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; New American Club-an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m.; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

"Neighborhood Senior Service and You:" JCC Seniors. With a film TBA. 1 p.m.

Tea Party for Russian Older Adults: JFS. Celebration of 2008. 1 p.m. Location TBD. For information, contact Nina Dmitrieva at nina@

jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 28

Winter Fund Break Days: JCC Youth Department. Visit The Putting Edge in Novi. The weather outside doesn't matter at this putt-putt golf course because this enclosed facility isn't the usual course. Lights are off and everything is glow-in-the-dark. Bring a nut free, dairy lunch. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. $32/JCC members; $30/additional siblings. $8/aftercare from 4–6 p.m. For information or to register, contact Leslie Bash at 971-0990 or lesliebash@jccfed.org.

Weekly Yiddish-Speaking and Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the home of Ray Juni. Call 761-2765 or 971-0990. 1:30–3 p.m.

"Cuppa Jo and the Five Books of Mo:" UM Hillel. 3 p.m. at Amer's on Church Street.

Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. followed by Tot Shabbat dinner of fish sticks, macaroni and cheese and salad bar for $4 per person at 6 p.m. Shira at 6:30 p.m.; Services at 7:30 p.m.

Services: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck at 6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat with optional kid's pizza diner at 6 p.m. For information, call 913-9705, email info@aareon.org, or visit www.aarecon.org.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 29

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 30

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 31

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC Youth Department. Crazy Carnival Day at the JCC. Break the piñata to see what's inside. Play games along the boardwalk to win prizes. Face painting, clowns, balloon animals and more. Bring a nut free, dairy lunch. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. $32/JCC members; $30/additional siblings. $8/aftercare from 4–6 p.m. For information or to register, contact Leslie Bash at 971-0990 or lesliebash@jccfed.org.

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; New American Club: an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m. *Every Monday.*

January 2008

Tuesday 1

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. *The Land and the Spirit* examines the central role the Holy Land plays in the Jews' mission throughout history. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 2

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC-Youth. For Ann Arbor Schools only. Visit the Leslie Science Center for a Raptor Presentation. An expert handler will show eagles, falcons, ospreys and other birds up close and personal. Bring a nut-free, dairy lunch. $32/child; $30/additional siblings. $8/aftercare. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. plus optional aftercare from 4–6 p.m. For information, contact Leslie Bash at 971-0990 or email lesliebash@jccfed.org.

Thursday 3

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC-Youth. For Ann Arbor Schools only. Create a masterpiece at Rainbow Creation. A chance to be creative and decorate a plate that will be fired in the kiln. In a week or two, the plate will be ready to take home and be eaten on. Bring a nut-free, dairy lunch. $32/child; $30/additional siblings. $8/aftercare. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. plus optional aftercare from 4–6 p.m. For information, contact Leslie Bash at 971-0990 or email lesliebash@jccfed.org.

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; New American Club-an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m.; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the

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Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 4

Winter Break Fun Days: JCC-Youth. For Ann Arbor Schools only. A visit to Jump City to try out the inflatable slides, bouncers, and obstacle courses. Bring a nut-free, dairy lunch. $32/child; $30/additional siblings. $8/aftercare. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. plus optional aftercare from 4–6 p.m. For information, contact Leslie Bash at 971-0990 or email lesliebash@jccfed.org.

Weekly Yiddish-speaking Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call 971-0990.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Service at 5:30 p.m.; Shira Service at 6:30 p.m.; Service at 7 p.m. Tot Shabbat dinner of fish sticks, macaroni and cheese and salad bar for $4 per person at 6 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 5

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 6

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tots at Jungle Java: TBE. Meet at 10 a.m. at Jungle Java on Jackson Road, just west of the movie theater. $6.50 for 2 years and over; $3 for 12 months-23 months; Free for under 1 and adults. RSVP to Julie at jbgrand@umich.edu.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 7

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; New American Club: an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Mourning and Mitzvah Class: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose. Provides an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Jewish mourning customs and practice through reading, discussion and writing. Designed for those who have experienced loss as well as those seeking knowledge and insight. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 8

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Mah Jongg, noon–2 p.m.; Drop-In Hobby Time, 1–3 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. *The Land and the Spirit* examines the central role the Holy Land plays in the Jews' mission throughout history. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 9

Men's Torah Study: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 10

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; New American Club-an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m.; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 11

Shabbat Dinner: TNT of TBE. Twenties and Thirties Group dinner. 7:00 p.m. RSVP to Dara at dara@detailsart.com.

Scholar-in-Residence Program Dinner: BIC. Precedes Jonathan Sarna's presentation at 8:15 p.m.. Dinner at 7 p.m. Babysitting provided during lecture for children 5 years of age and up.

Scholar-in-Residence Program: BIC. "An Old Faith in the New World: The Story of American History," a broad overview of American Judaism, will be presented by Jonathan Sarna, the Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University and Director of its Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program. 8:15 p.m. Babysitting provided during lecture for children 5 years of age and up.

Concert Recital: JFS. Outing for older adults to hear Caroline Helton sing "Voices of the Holocaust" at Britton Recital Hall at 8 p.m. $6 for roundtrip transportation on JFS CareVan, if needed. Contact Nina Dmitrieva for more information at nina@jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 12

Tot Shabbat Service: BIC. For tots 0–5 years old and their parents followed by Tot Kiddush. 11 a.m.

Presentation: BIC. "Jewish Prayers for the United States Government," presented by Jonathan Sarna, PhD. 1:30 p.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Presentation: BIC. "Future Trends in American Jewish Life," presented by Jonathan Sarna, PhD. 7 p.m.

MSSC Café: TBE. Middle School Shir Chadash. RG Game Night. 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 13

Hebrew In A Day: TBE and BIC. $60 (members); $80 (non-members). 9 a.m.–4 p.m. at the JCC. Register by 1/4 by calling 665-4744.

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 14

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SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; New American Club: an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Planning Meeting: TNT of TBE. Twenties and Thirties Group. 6:30 p.m.

Mourning and Mitzvah Class: TBE. Taught by Cantor Annie Rose. Contact Devon at 665-4744 for more information.

Tuesday 15

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Bible Class, 10:30 a.m.; Mah Jongg, noon. Drop-In Hobby Time, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Movie Tuesday: TBE. Film featured is *Left Luggage,* which is set in the 70's and tells the touching and emotional story of Chaja, a rebellious philosophy student struggling to come of age. 1–3 p.m.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. *The Land and the Spirit* examines the central role the Holy Land plays in the Jews' mission throughout history. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 16

Adult Hebrew #1: TBE. Winter semester begins. For more information or a form, visit www.templebethemeth.org. Register by calling 665-4744.

Thursday 17

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; New American Club-an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m.; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Adult Hebrew #1: TBE. Winter semester begins. For more information or a form, visit www.templebethemeth.org. Register by calling 665-4744.

Open House: HDS. For prospective parents of Hebrew Day School. 7 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, contact Sari Shifrin at 971-4633 or email office@hdsaa.org.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 18

Weekly Yiddish-speaking Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call 971-0990.

Shabbat Dinner: JCC-Early Childhood Center. Families with small children, birth to five years old, will welcome Shabbat with dinner, sing-a-long and a special presentation by the Giraffe Room children. $10/adults; $5/children 2 years and up. 6–7:30 p.m. For information, contact Noreen DeYoung by email at ndeyoung@umich.edu or call 971-0990.

Sisterhood Shabbat: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 19

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Women's Rosh Chodesh: TBE. 6:30 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 20

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Ice Skating: TNT of TBE. Join the Twenties and Thirties Group for ice skating. RSVP by 1/15 to Gwynne at gmosaki@yahoo.com.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 21

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; New American Club: an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Mourning and Mitzvah Class: TBE. Taught by Cantor Annie Rose. Contact Devon at 665-4744 for more information.

Tot Tu B'Shvat Seder: BIC. Seder and dinner for families with children through kindergarten. 5:30 p.m.

Tu B'Shvat Seder: Chabad. Celebrate Jewish Arbor Day with a full seder dinner of the special foods and drinks from Israel, study session on the meaning of the day, and the Jewish perspective on ecology. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 22

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Mah Jongg, noon–2 p.m.. Drop-In Hobby Time, 1–3 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. *The Land and the Spirit* examines the central role the Holy Land plays in the Jews' mission throughout history. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussion in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at U-M Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 23

Men's Torah Study: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 24

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 25

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Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 26

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For tots 0–5 years old and their parents followed by a Tot Kiddush. 11 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Saturday Night Live: TBE. High School Shir Chadash leads Havdalah and original music in the sanctuary. 8 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 27

Advocacy Connection Workshop: JFS. Supported by the Bernard L. Maas Foundation and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. For more information, contact Abbie at 769-0209.

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Family Tu B'Shvat Program: TBE and Jewish Hikers of Michigan. 2–4 p.m. at Nature House of Leslie Science and Nature Center, 1831 Traver Road. RSVP to jewish.hikers@gmail.com or dfitzig@templebethemeth.org or Devon at 665-4744.

Concert Outing: JFS. Outing for older adults to hear the Michigan Chamber Players at Britton Recital Hall at 4 p.m. $6 for roundtrip transportation on JFS CareVan, if needed. For information, contact Nina by email at nina@jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 28

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

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Thursday 31

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; New American Club-an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m.; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Grandparent University: JFS and JCC. "The Tricky Balance of Equality, Fairness and Favoritism: Managing Multiple Grandchildren and Multiple Families." $5/drop-in. 1–3 p.m. at the JCC.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. 5 p.m. on 1/4; 5:05 p.m. on 1/11; 5:15 p.m. on 1/18; 5:20 p.m. on 1/25; At U-M Hillel. Home hospitality available for Shabbat and meals. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m.; Shira: Family Shabbat in Song at 6:30 p.m.; Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. ($4/for Tot Shabbat dinner menu of fish sticks, macaroni and cheese, and salad) For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. 6:15 PM at the JCC the last Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Tot Shabbat with optional kid's pizza dinner at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 913-9705, email info@aarecon.org or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad House. Begins at candle-lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services and classes

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Maariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvor Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. U-M Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m.; 6 p.m. Mincha.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Havurah. Discussion-based format with topics changing monthly. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study at 8:50 a.m. Chapel Service at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and *yom tov* (Jewish holiday). Call 995-3276 in advance.

"Mystical Insights to the Torah:" Chabad. For women to learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. Saturday, one hour before sundown. Call 995-3276.

"Laws of Shabbat—Jewish Ethics:" Chabad. Study group examines the code of law for Shabbat and Jewish ethics. Saturday, 1/2 hour before sundown. Call 995-3276.

Phone numbers and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah (AARH)
P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 663-4039

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

U-M Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

December 7	4:42 p.m.	January 4	4:55 p.m.
December 14	4:42 p.m.	January 11	5:02 p.m.
December 21	4:45 p.m.	January 18	5:10 p.m.
December 28	4:49 p.m.	January 25	5:19 p.m.

Happy Chanukah!
from the Board of Directors and Staff of the
Washtenaw Jewish News

Vitals

Mazal tov

Miriam Alexander on her bat mitzvah on December 1.
Anna Kramer Rosenfeld on her bat mitzvah on January 19.
Hannah Schapiro on her bat mitzvah on January 26.
Bob and Charlene Zand on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Amitai Zand, son of Joel and Renee Ghert-Zand.
Louis and Happy Feigelson on the birth of their grandson, Ilan Gavreil Rohm. Landman-Feigelson, son of Aaron Feigelson and Leslie Landman.
Jeff and Barb Laufer on the birth of twin granddaughters, Paige and Bailey, daughters of David and Becky Laufer.
Steve Leber and Dina Shtull-Leber on the engagement of their daughter, Ilanit Shtull-Leber, to Alex Helfand.
Debbie and Edward Linkner on the birth of their twin grandsons, Benjamin and Jacob, on October 2, in Toronto, Canada. Parents are Lauren (Linkner) and Jesse Kaufman.

Condolences

The family of Rachel Jacobs on her death.
Harriet Teller on the death of her husband, Abe Goldman.
Andrea Gersh on the death of her brother, Paul Rosengarten, on October 16 and the death of her father, Stanley Rosengarten on October 23.
Elena Weissman on the death of her grandmother, Lucille Kores, on October 29.
Alida Silverman on the death of her sister, Jo-Anne Weissbart, on November 1.

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Functional computers needed for Jewish Family Services resettlement and employment clients, 769-0209.

Volunteer with JFS! Visitors, tutors, special events, and office support needed, 734-769-0209.

The deadline for the February Washtenaw Jewish News is Monday, January 7. Publication date: January 29.

Just starting a new service or business? Furniture to sell? Looking for a handyman or roommate? The *Washtenaw Jewish News* classifieds is the answer! Only $3/line enables you to reach over 5,000 readers. Ads can be emailed to wjna2@aol.com or call 971-1800.

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Temple Beth Emeth at the Movies!
Join us for our annual December 25 movie at Ann Arbor's Michigan Theater! This year's showing:
Hello Dolly!
starring Barbara Streisand & Walter Matthau

Doors open at 10 am, the movie will start at 10:30 am
Door Prizes!!
Come in costume!
Concessions available for breakfast and lunch
Tickets are available for purchase at the TBE Office in advance for $5, at the door for $6.
2309 Packard St. Ann Arbor, 48104
734-665-4744 www.templebethemeth.org

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Have you made your gift to the Annual Campaign?

We certainly have a lot to celebrate: our health, our families, our resilient spirits and our unique contributions to the world, to name a few. But the fact that not everyone can celebrate with us diminishes our joy as a people.

Seniors are hungry and lonely. Young people don't know where to look to find a connection to Judaism. Jews in crisis can't get the help they need to get back on their feet.

When you contribute to the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign, you're putting food on the tables of our respected elders and brightening their day with at least one visitor.

You're supporting Jewish schools, youth groups, summer camps and trips to Israel — the kinds of programs and places that invest in building Jewish identity and protect the future of our people.

You're making sure that the most vulnerable among us receive the care and support they need: job training, home heating assistance, quality medical care.

As Jews, we count on individuals like you to uplift the entire community. Your gift to the Annual Campaign demonstrates your willingness to do just that.

Please go to www.jewishannarbor.org (or call 734-677-0100) to make your pledge right now. Give Jews around the world and here at home one more reason to celebrate.

Jewish Federation of washtenaw county

www.jewishannarbor.org